



Donation 10¢



Farm workers killed, injured in Florida 'accidents'	4
El Malcriado investigates Ayala, High and Mighty Farms, CHP	4 - 5
Conversations with the grieving families and farm workers	6-7-8-9
Memorial mass, march, funeral	10 - 11
La Causa mobilizes in Calexico	12 - 13
Editorial: NO MORE DEATH TRIPS!	20



photo: Jeanette Hyduke

"When we began to hear the sound of the water everyone began to scream, for it was the sound of death itself. It was terrible. The water caused the deaths. And those that didn't escape drowned because they were trapped."



photo: La Voz de la Frontera

Drowned in 'prison of seats' 19 lettuce workers die in contractor bus massacre

BLYTHE, Ca. -- A slow and watery death came suddenly to nineteen farm workers before dawn January 15 when the labor contractor bus taking them to work plunged into an unmarked and unguarded irrigation ditch several miles southwest of Blythe. 28 farm workers were injured.

The bus, owned by labor contractor Jesus Ayala, had already travelled nearly 100 miles that morning from the California town of Calexico. The workers were enroute to the backbreaking work of the short hoe in the lettuce fields of High and Mighty Farms, near Blythe.

At least 13 of the workers, six of the dead and seven of the injured, were current or former members of the United Farm Workers. The UFW sponsored an unprecedented mass march across the international border on January 19 in memory of all those killed in the massacre.

A 'prison' of seats

According to survivors, the bus went off the road because it was travelling too fast to make the sharp right-hand turn at the corner of 20th Ave. and Rannells Blvd. It plunged head-first into the drainage ditch and fell onto its side.

The force of the impact in the ditch tore the seats loose from the floor of the bus, trapping the victims in what one survivor described as a 'prison' of seats.

Passengers in the first rows of seats were immediately thrown forward, crushing the driver against the steering wheel. They

in turn were trapped by the weight of the seats and people behind them. When the bus fell over onto its side, all the seats and people on the right side fell onto those on the left, further trapping them.

All nineteen workers who were killed were seated on the left side of the bus.

Water:

'the sound of death'

'When we began to hear the sound of the water, everyone began to scream,' said Andres Fierro, one of the survivors, 'for it was the sound of death itself. It was terrible. The water caused the deaths. And

clamor of the families dying were terrible. Fortunately some of the men broke out a window with their shoes and went out that way, even through the sharp glass.

'At first I couldn't find my way out because there were so many people piled on top of me. And the seats were piled around us like a prison, and they stuck to our skins. I couldn't free my hands from below the seats, they were in the water with my legs too.

'Everyone was stuck, how could we get out? To see the people as we called for help screaming 'Help me!', everyone scared to death and in pain!

'When I got outside on top of

"Then Ayala's son told us to get back to work. He didn't want us to talk about it, he said it was over. You know, he didn't want us to talk about it because he didn't want us to work slower."

"We were weeding lettuce and he told the people to keep moving and not to talk. To him the money was more important than the lives of the people who were going to work for him."

those that didn't escape drowned because they were trapped.

'We were all thrown on top of each other. I couldn't get out at first because someone had ahold of my ankle. Then they let loose ... I guess they drowned.'

Pedro Melgarejo Ferreira recalled, 'I was awake when the bus went out of control, and suddenly we were in the bottom of the ditch. The laments, the

the bus, I went back inside to help those who were still calling. We brought out a man with a broken arm and this man helped another, even with his arm like that ...'

Ayala's son accused

Workers who were aboard a second Ayala bus accused Ayala's son Clifford, a foreman, continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Angry farm worker reaction to massacre

of trying to prevent them from helping the victims in the ditch. According to Pablo Lara, the second bus arrived at the scene about 15 minutes after the massacre and the driver was



Pedro Melgarejo Ferreira

ordered by Ayala to continue on to work.

Lara said he and six other workers forced the driver to stop about a mile beyond the ditch and ran back to help: 'A woman who was with us stood up and said, 'Stop! I think my son is on Pablo's bus!'. We got off and hurried back to the ditch and told the foreman that we weren't going to work.

'But it was already too late when we returned. Everyone was already dead, already drowned.

'Then Ayala told us to get back to work. He didn't want us to talk about it, he said it was already over. You know, he didn't want us to talk about it because he didn't want us to work slower.

'We were weeding lettuce and he told the people to keep mov-

ing and not to talk. To him the money was more important than the lives of the people who were going to work for him.'

Chavez blames company, contractor, patrol

In Calexico, UFW President Cesar Chavez accused High and Mighty Farms and Jesus Ayala of criminal negligence in failing to provide for the safety of the workers in the bus.

He said that the use of small metal screws rather than strong bolts to anchor the seats, as well as the tired and over-worked condition of the driver were responsible for the crash and the deaths.

The driver, Pablo Arrellano of Calexico, worked an 18-hour day, Chavez said, that included 7 1/2 hours of field work, 6-7 hours of driving, and three hours of preparing the bus for travel and finding workers in Calexico.

Chavez also demanded an investigation into the crash by the Riverside County Grand Jury and the enactment of strong state legislation requiring inspection of farm labor buses.

He blamed the California Highway Patrol for failing to conduct regular inspection of these buses.

'Why do we not get the same protection as passengers riding on a Greyhound bus?' he asked a meeting of 700 farm workers in Calexico on January 17. 'Ninety percent of the labor



photo: Jeanette Hyde

This completely unmarked and unguarded ditch where 19 farm workers died is almost invisible 100 feet down the road.



photo: Jeanette Hyde

The inside of fatal bus after removal from the drainage ditch shows the seats which trapped and drowned 19 farm workers. Seats were fastened with metal screws less than one-half inch long to a floor that was so thin that only one thread in each screw actually held seats. (See page 5 for related articles.)

buses in California could not pass inspection and are not fit to be on the road.'

He also said a CHP report on the accident was incomplete and contradictory, and demanded further investigation into the condition of the bus. The report found several major mechanical problems with the bus but contended that they were not related to the cause of the crash.

Angry farm worker reaction

The massacre touched off a massive and angry reaction and an outpouring of public sympathy by farm labor in the Imperial Valley.

The United Farm Workers of America organized a march of 7000 persons across the border January 19. Thousands who were prevented from entering the U.S. to begin the march joined when it crossed the border, singing 'Solidarity Forever.'

Workers at the Calexico UFW hiring hall launched a safety campaign aimed at eliminating unsafe conditions in the remaining contractor buses.

Over 700 farm workers met in a local elementary school two days earlier on January 17, and formed a Committee of Assistance to aid the survivors and the families of the dead.

A moment of silence at the end of the meeting began a nationwide week of mourning for the victims.

Within three weeks after the massacre, nearly \$2,300 in voluntary contributions were collected and distributed to the families by the Committee.



Andres Fierro

In addition, the Campesino Center in Calexico and the legal and medical staff of the UFW were quickly mobilized to help the victims and their families in their fight to win the benefits they deserved and to provide them with the personal concern so needed in the moment of crisis.

No knowledge, no comment

The morning after the massacre, Supervisor Angel

Soto was parked near the ditch where the 19 workers had been killed. He waited from dawn until noon for an Ayala bus from Mexicali.

Ayala had promised the company 'another bunch' that day, Soto said. 'But there's no way they would come.'

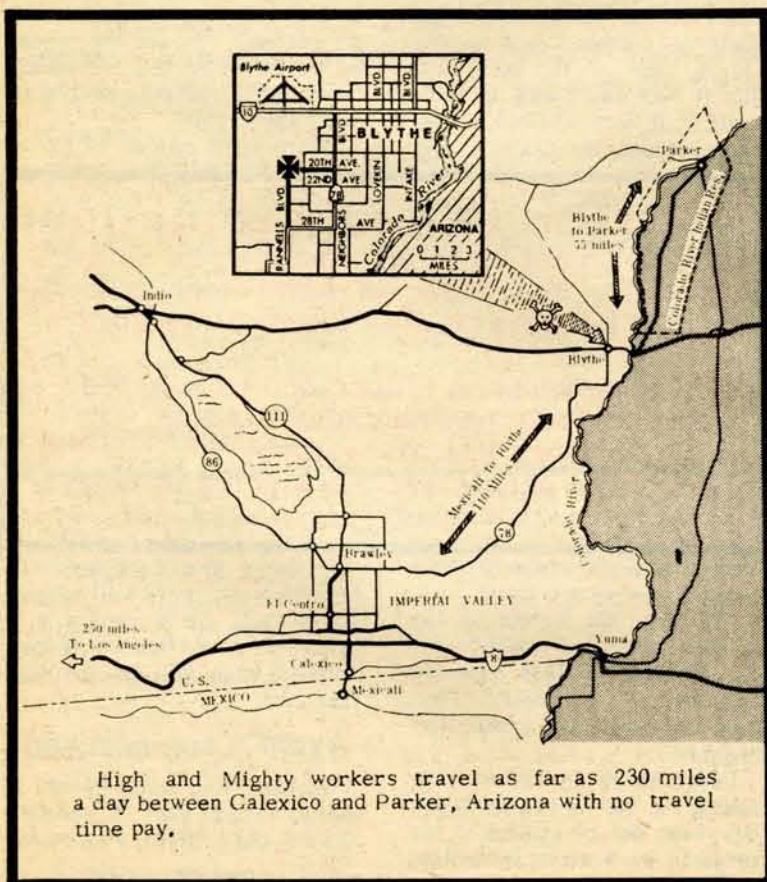
Jesus Ayala refused comment on the details of the massacre but insisted that the bus was in good mechanical condition. 'I don't know what happened,' he said, 'but I don't want any trouble.'

Andy Sarkisian, ranch foreman for High and Mighty since 1953, told El Malcriado that he felt no responsibility for the workers who died. 'I don't even know who they are,' he said. 'I pay the contractors to take care of that.'

Sarkisian said his company had a contract with the Teamsters Union but he didn't know if anyone on the bus was a Teamster member.

A Teamster spokesman in Salinas said six passengers in the bus were members of the Teamsters, but he declined to say whether they were among the dead or the injured and refused to reveal their names.

He also refused to state what if any measures the Teamsters were taking to assist the survivors and the families of the dead, or to prevent such massacres in the future.



High and Mighty workers travel as far as 230 miles a day between Calexico and Parker, Arizona with no travel time pay.

Arizona officials broke law Recall petitions called valid

Phoenix, Ariz. -- Thousands of UFW organizers and supporters are celebrating a U.S. Justice Department ruling that Arizona officials illegally invalidated 28,000 signatures from the petition to recall the state's Republican governor, Jack Williams.

The arbitrary striking of the 28,000 additional signatures enabled Williams to escape what seemed like certain defeat at the hands of Arizona voters outraged at his attacks of farm workers' rights.

In May of 1972, Williams signed into law a repressive bill which prohibited secondary boycotts and established union election procedures almost totally controlled by growers. The Union responded with a 24-day 'Fast of Love' by Cesar Chavez and one of the most intensive political campaigns in the state's history.

On January 10, J. Stanley Pottinger of the Justice De-

partment's Civil Rights Division wrote to Arizona Secretary of State Gary Nelson that Nelson's invalidation of the 28,000 signatures was in violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Nelson had ruled that these signatures had been obtained by deputy voter registrars who 'might' have intimidated voters into signing the recall petition.

Jim Drake, Recall Campaign director at that time, labeled this charge 'incredible,' pointing out that the state offered no proof and that there was no authority in any law for such a ruling.

'It was just a desperate last-ditch effort to save Williams,' he said.

Recall election

Despite intense bureaucratic harassment from state officials, UFW organizers collected 176,000 signatures between May, 1972 and March, 1973, of which 108,000 were initially declared valid. 103,000 were needed to force a recall election.

Then, on July 27, 1973, Nelson ruled that 28,000 of those signatures were not good.

In the meantime, part of the law signed by Williams was declared unconstitutional and the rest was rarely enforced. According to UFW attorney Jim Rutkowski in Phoenix, the strength of the recall cam-

paign scared the state away from trying to confront the UFW over the law.

Demand recall election now

The Union wrote to Nelson on January 23 demanding that a new recall election be set up immediately, since his ruling had been found illegal. Nelson has yet to reply, Rutkowski said.

Rutkowski and Union attorney Bruce Meyerson have filed a \$2 million lawsuit charging that Nelson and other state officials conspired to use their governmental authority to deny Arizona citizens their right to vote.

Rutkowski said the Justice Department ruling is an important new weapon for the Union in that lawsuit, 'because it virtually confirms everything we have charged.'

The human element

'We'll win a lot of money from the state with the suit,' said Jim Drake, 'But the state doesn't seem to care as long as they keep Williams in office for another year.'

'We registered over 100,000 new voters in the process of gathering signatures. Not many people know it, but by doing this we really changed the political structure of the state. When we started the campaign, there were only five minority representatives in the state senate and assembly. When we finished, there were fourteen.'

'What was most remarkable,' said Drake, 'was the 'human element': that we could obtain nearly 200,000 signatures in a state where there are only 600,000 registered voters is a testament to the energy and support farm workers can generate.'

Citrus pickers fight

SANTA PAULA, Ca. -- 150 Santa Paula citrus pickers working in orchards owned by the Southern Pacific Growers Association walked out January 24 when they learned that their wages had been cut in half.

Workers had been paid by the box and then the growers switched to payment per bin. The workers said that it took 20 boxes to fill a bin and the growers maintained that it took 13.

The workers presented growers with 13 major demands. Among them were: that all papers employees are asked to sign be in both English and Spanish; that terms of employment also be written in both languages and be given to the employee when he is hired; and that all field and crew foremen be bi-lingual. Workers demanded that the picking ladders be in good condition, that medical benefits be provided to workers and that a grievance committee be established to function throughout the year.



Chavez receives peace prize

Cesar Chavez received the Martin Luther King Junior Non-Violent Peace Prize in Atlanta, Georgia January 14. 6000 people were present when he received the award, which included a citation, a check for \$1,000 for the Union and a bust of Dr. King.

During the two days that Chavez was in Atlanta, he appeared with Coretta King (see photo above) on two Television talk shows, held a press conference, and laid a wreath on the grave of Dr. King.

On January 15, Atlanta Ford Assembly workers voted \$200 for the Union.

ILWU stops Gallo on Oakland docks

OAKLAND, Ca. -- In solidarity with the UFW's Gallo wine boycott, clerks from the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Locals 10 and 34 refused to tally a cargo of E & J Gallo grape concentrate imported from Spain January 29.

When two fork lift drivers, pro-UFW members of Oakland Local 70 of the Teamsters, came to load pallets of concentrate, they said 'We can't unload without a clerk.'

The shipment consisted of 2,666 metal, oil-sized drums of concentrate which had arrived on the freighter Grebbdyk on January 14 at the Oakland pier. Fairbanks Trucking Company, a subsidiary of Gallo had been transporting the drums daily to Gallo's plant near Modesto.

UFW supporters picketed the

entrance to the pier while Gallo strikers formed a semi-ring around the 700 lb. drums near the front of the Oakland pier, and remained there until the pier closed down at 5 pm.

The clerks, members of the ILWU, told picketers that ships arrive at the pier with heavy shipments of grape concentrate until June of every year. A clerk was told by one of the truck drivers that one drum alone makes 800 gallons of wine.

One leaking metal drum oozed a substance that resembled molasses. An ILWU clerk remarked, 'It's not like the Gallo ads on TV showing a dark, handsome man on a white stallion riding through Gallo's California Vineyard savoring the quality of each grape.'

A reminder

Nan Freeman

Born on Aug. 29, 1953 and died on a UFW picketline on Jan. 25, 1972 near Belle Glade, Florida at 4:00 am. She was a college student assisting farm workers who were on strike against the Talisman Sugar Company and was killed when a tractor rig struck her.

Coca Cola workers win 12 percent pay hike

National Executive Board member and Florida UFW director Mack Lyons, and a team of negotiators elected by the workers just completed negotiations for hourly wages and base

piece rates for the third year of UFW's contract with the Coca-Cola Company.

According to Lyons, the new rates are the best not only in the Florida citrus industry, but in all of Florida agriculture. The pay hikes are effective for hours worked and fruit picked after January 3, so that the workers covered by the Union contract will receive at least three weeks in back pay.

Overall increases averaged about 12 percent, with hourly rates ranging from \$2.40 to \$4.35 and base piece rates from 46 cents a box on concentrate oranges to \$1.15 a box on packing-house lemons, limes and tangerines.

Working on the negotiating team were Rafael Arce, Hilario Barajas, Calvin Carter, Nathaniel Durham, Walter Hendrix, Rev. Joel Rolle, Verlon Turner, Walter Williams, and Ransom Younts.

'It was the workers themselves', said Mack Lyons, 'who made the negotiations a success. No one can express a problem or a need for better wages better than the man or woman who lives the problem. The Coke workers really proved that in negotiating their 1974 rates.'

The negotiating team was assisted by UFW attorney Steve Pearlman and economist Dr. Marshall Barry from New College in Sarasota, Florida.

UFW to push bill for secret ballot elections

SAN FRANCISCO, Ca. -- Legislative allies will soon introduce a UFW-sponsored bill to provide secret ballot elections for California farm workers, said UFW President Cesar Chavez and California AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer John F. Henning at a press conference here January 25.

They said the bill would provide for speedy secret ballot elections and would maximize the number of farm workers eligible to vote.

Meanwhile, SB 493, a farm labor bill sponsored by Senator George Zenovich, was killed in the Senate Industrial Relations Committee January 21 after both AFL-CIO and grower representatives attacked it as unfair.

Credit Union elects officers

LA PAZ, Ca. -- The Farm Workers' Credit Union (CU) held its eleventh annual meeting January 27 at La Paz.

The 150 CU members present and their families reviewed the CU's financial report and held elections. Re-elected to the CU Board of Directors were Cesar Chavez, Gilberto Padilla and Philip Veracruz. They will serve with the other six members of the Board: Helen Chavez, Rudy Ahumada, Bob Armington, Dolores Huerta, Ann Santos, and Pete Velasco.

In other elections, Manuel 'Chris' Sanchez was voted in to join Esther Uranday and Lupe Rodriguez on the Credit Committee; and Berlinda Lopez was elected to work with Joy Peebles

and Marcos Rodriguez on the Supervisory Committee.

According to Helen Chavez, the Board of Directors will meet soon to vote on which of the members will fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Chavez said the Board will discuss the possibility of submitting a list of CU members who are delinquent in paying back their loans for publication in El Malcriado.

Helen Chavez expressed thanks in behalf of the Credit Union to the Almaden workers, who brought four cases of wine for the special CU lunch, and to Sally Chavez and the other women who helped in the kitchen.

Worker safety 'not in the contract'

'The workers on that bus? Hell, I don't even know who they are. I don't know if they were Teamsters or what because I don't know anything about them. I pay the labor contractor to take care of that. I don't pay them.'

The speaker is Andy Sarkisian, general foreman of High and Mighty Farms, to whose lettuce fields the workers aboard Jesus Ayala's bus were being taken on the morning of the Blythe bus massacre.

Sarkisian spoke to El Malcriado reporters late last month outside the company's packing shed in Blythe, to the obvious displeasure of a Teamster organizer who was present with his shiny green radio-equipped station wagon.

Because absentee owner Jake Kayian lives in Fresno, Sarkisian runs the ranch, which has had a contract with the Teamsters since the spring of 1973. Rather than hiring workers from around Blythe, however, he still uses the contractors to bring workers each day from Mexicali, 110 miles away. 'The Teamsters don't have a hiring hall,' he explains.

'The contractor tells me what he pays to get the workers. That's about \$16 or \$17 a day these days. I pay him that much plus 25%. At least that's what the contractors tell me they pay.

I don't know if they really do.' Sarkisian was offended at the charge of negligence on the part of High and Mighty and the labor contractor Ayala. 'Ayala told me he was really sorry about this,' he said, 'but these things happen, you know.'

'I'd feel sorry if a load of cattle spilled over and they died, but when it's farm workers they make a big stink and pretend we don't care about human lives.'

'Actually, I think Ayala's buses are among the better ones. Some of them I've seen I'd be scared to tell them to bring workers in.'

Cheapest outfit around

'High and Mighty is the cheapest outfit around,' charged Blythe UFW organizer Al Figueroa. 'In 1968 they were still paying \$1.25 an hour. But the workers threw a couple of mini-strikes and forced the wages up 25¢ at one time. And the mere fact that the Union has been in the area forced them to raise their wages even more.'

'Jake Kayian told us once that he'd go bankrupt rather than sign a contract with us.'

Figueroa recalled that during the 1970 UFW melon strike around Blythe, High and Mighty brought in students from Yuma, Arizona, more than 100 miles

away, to break the strike.

At the time, the Riverside Press reported that High and Mighty and other melon ranches conducted an extensive radio ad campaign to attract the students. 'They offered \$2.00 an hour in wages, free room and meals in an air-conditioned motel with a swimming pool, and free transportation from their homes to the fields,' according to the account.

'The growers had been paying the experienced farm workers, who are boarded in a labor camp, \$1.65 an hour,' the paper said.

'We pulled out all the workers and the companies lost everything,' Figueroa recalled of that strike.

'Since then, they've tried to run away from us over to Arizona and onto the Indian Reservation where they pressured the Tribal Council into banning the union. But they don't even use the people who live there as workers -- they still bring them up from Mexicali and that's more than 135 miles each way each day!'

Teamsters less trouble

Sarkisian admitted that the company leased extensive land on the Colorado River Indian Reservation in Arizona for \$5 an acre but said that they only grew hay and cotton and employed few

workers.

He said that the company had a contract with the Teamsters but refused to reveal its terms. 'If the workers want to find out about the contract,' he said, 'they can ask the Teamsters.'

'I try to sign up the workers,' he explained, and some join and some don't. But mostly they say, 'why don't you just leave us alone.'

'I think one union is no different than another. With these unions it's not money, it's that they're always trying to tell you what to do. With Chavez, the worker is always right. We have problems with the Teamsters, but not as bad as what I've heard about the UFW.'

'It looks like Communism to me,' Kayian said.

'It's not in the contract'

'The problem with the Teamsters,' according to Sarkisian, 'is that they have too many organizers who don't know their ass from a hole in the ground. They give phony information to the workers because it makes it easier to sign them up.'

'They say the grower will do this and the grower will do that, but it's not in the contract. Then the workers come and complain but all we can say is that it's not in the contract.'

As farm workers board the contract buses in Calexico each

Boycott humbles High&Mighty!

'We spent \$600 an acre putting in 388 acres of lettuce this year,' says High and Mighty Farms general foreman Andy Sarkisian, 'but we haven't gotten a penny back. There's too much lettuce around and there's no market for it.'

There's no justice, is there, Andy?

During the UFW strike in 1970, High and Mighty owner Kayian expressed a similar viewpoint. 'If they were talking primarily about wage scales, I'd be happy,' Kayian was quoted as saying. 'But they're going too far,' he said, in reference to UFW demands for a union-run hiring hall and for a voice in the use of pesticides on the ranch

morning, the bus massacre is still the major topic of conversation. And the angry questions frequently asked are, 'Where were the Teamsters? Aren't the Teamsters contracts supposed to provide for the health and safety of farm workers?'

The Teamsters remain silent. Perhaps they could only answer, 'It's not in the contract.'

Injured cane cutters deported

Two Florida 'slave' vans overturn, One Jamaican killed, 125 injured

South Bay, Fla. -- The sun had not yet risen on the first Monday of the New Year when a windowless van packed full with about 130 Jamaican farm workers slid into a roadside ditch and overturned, killing one and injuring at least 86 others. The name of the dead worker has never been released.

Three weeks earlier, on December 16, 1973, 39 Jamaican cane cutters employed by the same company, Gulf and Western Products Company, were injured when the truck they were riding in flipped over along the same road.

Almost all the injured workers were immediately deported back to Jamaica.

'We treat cattle better'

Florida Highway Patrol officials estimated that there were 130 workers in the 8 by 35-foot van which crashed January 7, although the company claimed there were less than 100. The van had no seats or windows.

'To say that they were packed in like cattle would in no sense convey the true picture. We treat cattle better,' said Rev. Franklin P. Smith of the Florida Migrant Ministry, who had thoroughly investigated the situation.

Gulf and Western is a multi-million dollar conglomerate which owns Paramount Pictures in addition to other valuable properties.

On August 9, 1973, the company was granted permission by the regional director of the Rural Manpower Commission in Atlanta to import Jamaicans for the cane harvesting season with the understanding that 'fixed seats' would be provided in vehicles transporting workers to and from the fields.

There were no such seats in either of the trucks which overturned.

'Not only were no seats provided,' said Reverend Smith, 'but the men were jammed so closely together that, often times, according to one of the patients in the hospital, they did not have room to put both feet on the floor, but had to put one foot on top of the other!'

Florida law requires that a company must file a workmen's compensation report within ten days of every accident. But Gulf and Western filed no such report on the first accident until after the second accident, when it was discovered that the reports from the first were missing.

Since Gulf and Western carries its own insurance, it apparently hopes to escape having to make any payments to its injured workers.

No charges can be brought against the company, according to the highway patrol, because Florida law exempts company-owned trucks from laws concerning worker safety.



Cane cutters inspect Gulf and Western Products Co. truck which overturned January 7 near South Bay, Florida. The windowless van was filled with nearly 130 Jamaican workers when it flipped over, injuring 86.

The injured: Virtual prisoners

Gulf and Western also hampered efforts to contact the injured workers in the hospital. Several clergymen and a representative of the United Farm Workers of America were kicked out in mid-visit from the Belle Glade hospital by a doctor who turned out to be a Gulf and Western employee.

The doctor charged the visiting clergy with being 'agitators.'

After visiting the hospital and talking to a few injured workers, Rev. Smith charged they were being held 'virtual prisoners' by the company. He said most of them were afraid to talk for fear of immediate deportation.

According to Diana Lyons of the UFW Field Office in Avon Park, between 8 and 10,000 workers from the British West Indies are brought to Florida each year for the sugar cane harvest, only to be sent back when the harvest is over.

'Most only come once,' she

said. 'Either they find out how bad it is and never come back, or else they complain and get shipped back immediately and blacklisted.'

In a statement to a Miami newspaper, UFW Executive Board Member Mack Lyons and August Vandenbosche of the Florida Christian Migrant Ministry write, 'It is long past time when giant agribusiness interests in the state of Florida should be permitted to treat their work force as pawns in their untrained quest for profits.'

Highway Patrol won't act on bus massacre

BLYTHE, Ca. -- Within two days of the Blythe bus massacre, the California Highway Patrol had issued an official Report which concluded that no mechanical defects in Jesus Ayala's bus had caused the 'accident.'

Instead, the report said, the accident was caused by speeding on the part of the driver. Several mechanical defects found in the bus, it concluded, were 'apparently not' connected with the cause of the crash.

The report was signed by Robert Doyle, investigator for the CHP's Motor Carrier Safety Division (MCSO) and by Lt. Art Wilson, commander of the CHP post in Blythe.

Official reports such as this one play an important role in the aftermath of a disaster, for they can become weapons in the hands of those who seek to escape responsibility or who seek to cover up their own negligence.

Report's findings

The defects found in the bus included: an inoperative emergency brake system; a faulty exhaust system that could have pumped poisonous carbon monoxide into the bus; faulty wiring around the ignition that could have caused the engine to choke down at any time.

These defects, the report concludes, were violations of the California vehicle safety code.

But the report also stated: 'All the passenger seats and the driver's seat were ripped loose from the floor and side wall mountings. Passenger seats were held in place by 5/16 inch sheet-metal screws on each inside leg and by 5/16 and 3/8 inch sheet-metal screws on the outside rail.'

Here, buried without further comment in the report, is the cause of the deaths of nineteen farmworkers -- the very seats in which they had been sitting.

(A National Transportation Safety Board investigation has determined that the floor was so thin that only one thread of each screw was actually holding the seats down.)

Dodging responsibility

California law allows the CHP to inspect farm labor buses but does not require it. However, if a bus is inspected, it must meet certain safety standards set by law.

The regulations say that the seats must be 'securely fastened' to the floor, but it is a simple fact that the seats in Ayala's buses were not.

Yet the CHP found no violation of the safety code in the seats.

'The seats were not what we might have wanted, investigator Doyle told reporters on January 17 when his report was released,' but this would not have contributed to the accident.'

The seats may have had nothing to do with the cause of the crash, but they had everything to do with the cause of the deaths. The CHP cannot dodge its responsibility here.

Lt. Wilson of the Blythe CHP offered this explanation: 'There

was no violation found in the conditions of the seats, because the code only takes into account normal forces such as the impact that would result if the bus struck a pedestrian.

'Impacting the ditch is not a typical stress that the seats might have been subjected to. But it was an unfortunate thing that the seats weren't fastened more securely.'

Were inspections done?

But what is the point of safety regulations if not to protect people in 'non-normal' situations? What is the point of safety regulations if they are not mandatory?

Did the CHP ever inspect this bus? If it did, were the seats determined to be safe or unsafe?

Such information about inspections is not public information, according to an official at the Motor Carrier Safety Division in

San Diego who asked that his name not be used. It is available only through court order, he said. Meanwhile, investigator Robert Doyle, who should have access to these records, has refused to speak to El Malcriado reporters.

According to the MCSO official, 'It's very difficult to inspect these buses because it's hard to find the owner or the driver, and they try to hide out from us. We have to do the inspections when we are able to find the buses without interfering with a farmer's operation of without inconveniencing the workers.'

In the most recent roadside check conducted by the CHP in the Blythe area, for example, four out of four buses stopped had mechanical violations, according to Lt. Wilson.

'The standard we use is whether they are so defective that they won't make it back to Mexicali,' he said. 'None of these four were so defective as to warrant removing them from the road, and we issued some citations and warnings. We weren't alarmed.'

Yet a recent CHP analysis of its own prior reports states that none of the 43 farm labor bus 'accidents' in California in 1972 and 1973 were caused by mechanical defects.

El Malcriado asked a number of Highway Patrol officials if a campaign to crack down on unsafe buses is planned.

'I haven't heard of any such plans,' said Lt. Wilson in Blythe. 'What it would take would be legislation requiring mandatory inspections.'

'There's nothing planned that I know of,' said the MCSO official in San Diego. 'We try to get as many as we can but we have other jobs to do.'

'I don't know of any such plans,' said Captain Strong of the El Centro office near Calexico. 'Try the Commissioner's office.'

'I'm not aware of anything,' said Kent Milton of the Public Information staff of CHP Commissioner Pudinski. 'That bus was clean and that suggests that there's no need for such a campaign, doesn't it?'

Ayala: history of abuse

CALEXICO, Ca. -- Labor contractor Jesus Ayala has a record of continual disregard for farm workers' rights and safety, an investigation by El Malcriado has revealed.

Yet, he has never been punished for violations of California labor, health and safety laws, despite a long string of convictions. His sentences have always been suspended.

And almost unbelievably, his labor contractor's license was renewed less than two weeks after the Blythe bus massacre in mid-January when 19 lettuce workers drowned in one of his buses.

Super-scab

Ayala's reputation in the Imperial Valley is as bad as his record. Since the massacre he has only been able to run two buses from Blythe instead of his usual four.

(Two buses belonging to Ayala were destroyed by fire in Calexico on the night of January 21. Ayala has reportedly purchased two new buses since that time.)

'Shit, no, I wouldn't work for Ayala,' said a worker named Juan Olivares early one morning at the buses in Calexico. He's got all kinds of old buses; he chooses people by who he likes. If the foreman doesn't like you, you don't work.'

'He's a super-scab,' charged Blythe UFW organizer Al Figueroa. He broke our strikes at Abatti Brothers, at D'Arrigo, at High and Mighty. He's really hard on the workers.'

Ayala, who is 72 years old and has been contracting since the 1920's, denied charges that he has broken UFW strikes and that the bus was in poor mechanical condition.

'I never did nothing to hurt you people, why do you want to give me any trouble?', he asks. 'The accident wasn't my fault, it was an act of God. Accidents happen -- planes fall out of the sky all the time. I had a friend once who fell off a horse and was

killed, but I don't blame the horse!'

'I'm not afraid of nobody,' Ayala told reporters after the massacre. 'Not Chavez, not nobody.'

Examples of exploitation

A few examples of prosecutions Ayala has faced demonstrate his continual abuse of his workers' rights and safety and the indifference of the state of California towards cracking down on such violations.

Ayala was sentenced to 30 days in jail October 21, 1965 because he failed to carry Workmen's Compensation Insurance for his workers as required by law. Like former vice-president Spiro Agnew, he pleaded 'nolo contendere', which means he neither admitted nor denied guilt. But his jail term was suspended and he was placed on three years probation.

He was convicted October 14, 1968 for violating state regulations requiring the posting of wage payment rates and requiring that toilets be provided at the work site. He was fined \$250, but the fine was suspended.

On September 23, 1970, one of his drivers, Mike Velasquez, was charged with driving without a proper farm labor bus drivers' license. After failing to appear in court, Velasquez was arrested. He posted \$62 in bail and then failed to show up for trial, thus forfeiting the bail. Despite the violation, Ayala was merely warned to make sure his drivers were properly licensed.

'No worse than the others'

California Department of Industrial Relations records indicate that Ayala has been cited fourteen times in the past 3 years for failure to post the wage rates he was paying workers. These citations, the latest of which occurred December 5, 1973, were the result of random inspections.

Hiding the wage sheet from

workers is a common trick of labor contractors - to attract workers by promising them one wage rate and then paying them a lower rate after a day's work is completed.

But the authorities are apparently not alarmed by this amount of deception. 'Ayala is no worse than any of the other contractors on this,' according to California Labor Commission Investigator Merv Ridinger of El Centro.

'It's not a deliberate attempt to mislead anyone. If we warn one of them, say three days in a row, and they still don't post them, then what the hell, we write him a ticket.'

Another report on Ayala from the Labor Commission's Division of Labor Law Enforcement (DLLE) dispute's Ridinger's interpretation of the intent of the contractor. It states of Ayala's fourteen citations, 'They were almost invariably corrected at the time of inspection.'

This suggests that the violations were deliberate -- the foreman was hiding the wage rates until an inspector chanced to come by.

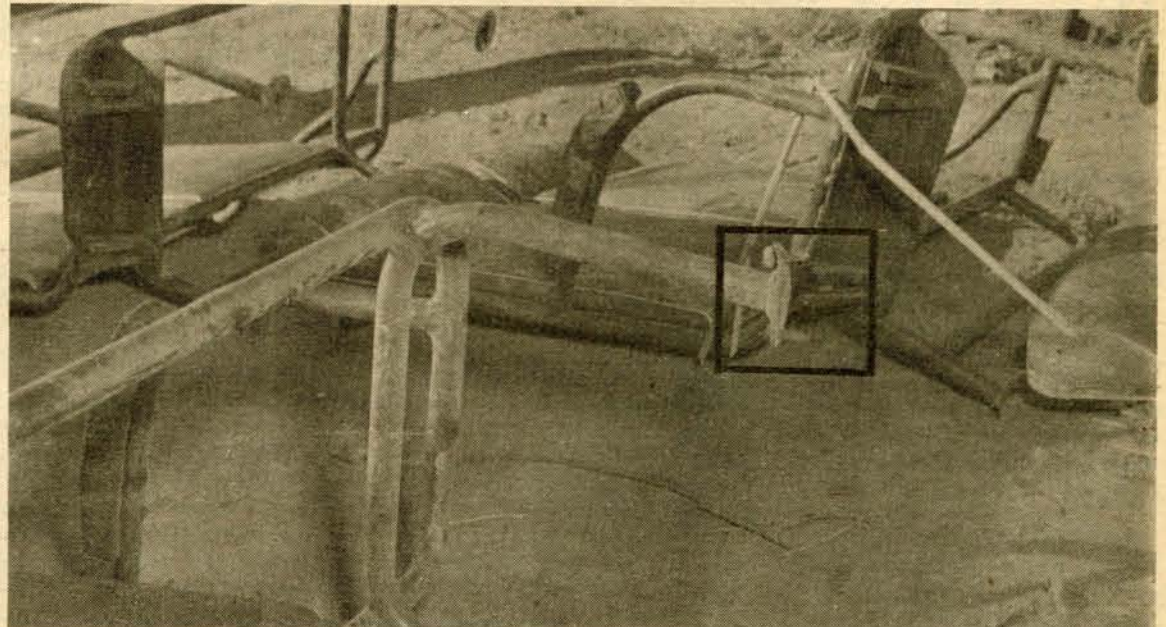
'The law is kind of loose,' Ridinger said.

License granted

The renewal of Ayala's license only weeks after the Blythe bus massacre was 'standard procedure' according to Ruth Spiers, senior deputy in the DLLE.

She said that Ayala had entered his application before the crash and so he was entitled to a renewal. But, she said, the license could be revoked after a formal hearing, and she said that an investigation was being conducted to see if a formal hearing would be necessary.

Ayala almost didn't get his license renewed once, in 1964, when the Labor Commission held up the renewal for nearly five months because Ayala misrepresented his criminal record and unpaid taxes on the application. The renewal was finally granted, however.



A close up of seats removed from Ayala bus shows the screws used to fasten the seats to the floor of the bus. How many other buses carrying farm workers are this flimsy?



Joy for the Gonzalez family after 11 days of separation.

ROBERTO GONZALEZ "No papers, no pass" they told me.

For some of the workers in Ayala's death bus, the terrible minutes of being trapped inside a sinking coffin will never be forgotten. Many days after the virtual massacre Roberto Gonzalez, one of the injured, still cannot sleep. He has three broken ribs, an injured pelvis, numerous bruises and what a doctor described as a 'nervous condition.' His eyes are scarlet and his body shakes constantly.

For ten days and nights in the Palo Verde Hospital, Roberto Gonzalez had a recurring nightmare: the screams and supplications of nineteen fellow farm workers that he couldn't help.

He is remorseful. He knew them all by name and they continue to live in his mind. 'The doctor says that the shock will pass, but I don't know,' he said.

On January 25 the 26-year old farm worker left the hospital and boarded a Greyhound bus for Calexico. He had not seen his wife for 11 days since a night before the fatal bus ride. She had no passport and the Amer-

ican immigration authorities would not let her enter the U.S. to visit her husband.

He went directly to the border, but his green card and Mexican passport had been lost in the ditch along with so many lives. He asked the US authorities for a temporary permit to see his family and to return again to the U.S.

He carried a letter from a lawyer stating the situation, but the officials at the border told brother Gonzalez 'no papers, no pass' and turned him away.

Without a green card or passport, he was a man without rights in a place where human life is measured in the number of hours worked.

He wandered the streets of Calexico. In his hand was a paper bag that contained five bottles of medicine. 'But,' as he said later, 'I was afraid to take them. They would make me drowsy and I had no where to sleep.'

He did sleep that night, in a field outside of town with other

Mexicans without papers hiding from the Border Patrol.

In the morning he found the Calexico Campesino Center and told us his story. He had heard about the Union. Max Huerta from the Coachella Field Office had visited him in the hospital and given him the address of the Campesino Center. But he had been embarrassed to come, until now.

Together with Campesino Center worker Tina Solinas, Roberto Gonzalez returned to the border and again faced the guards. This time a call to the Mexican consul and a confrontation with the official in charge brought different results: the promise of a temporary green card in several days.

He was finally able to see his wife again. She was waiting in front of their home in the 'Colonia de Baja California,' the poorest barrio in Mexicali, watching the children. Many emotions crowded her face as she watched her husband return: joy, and perhaps sadness, because she knew he soon would have to go back to ride the death buses again.



Maria Luisa de Cabrera, Dora, Gilberto and Mario near their home in Ejido Sonora, Mexico.

MARIA LUISA CARBERA "I just keep crying until the tortillas are wet with tears."

Maria Luisa Cabrera wrung her hands and looked down to the ground.

'I look alright on the outside,' she said, 'but I'm sick and dying inside.'

'I haven't been able to sleep since Teodoro died, and every night the younger children cry until I have no more consolation to give them.'

Teodoro Cabrera was one of the men of the Ejido Sonora who had to leave his family and his country during the week and look for work as a greencard farm worker 40 miles away in Calexico.

He rented a room in Mexicali for \$3 a day and arose each morning at 1:30 to cross the border in time to get on a contractor's bus. On the fifteenth of January he never came back.

'Neighbors come and offer their help,' his widow said, 'but all I can think is why wasn't it me that died and why

didn't Teodoro wait to go back to Mexicali one more day, and why do I have to care for my little ones and keep on living when the only thing I want to do is die?'

Her eldest son Mario scolded her for saying such things, but she would not be consoled.

Mario is only sixteen, but already a man. He smiles and moves his shoulders when he talks about his father, and his travels as a farm worker and railroad laborer. Mario refused to believe anything was wrong when he first heard the news of the bus crash over the radio, until he heard his father's name.

Maria Luisa Cabrera looks at her children, Dora, Gilberto and Mario, and shakes her head. 'They tell me to receive strength from my children,' she said, 'but every time my son sees me and says, 'Ay, mama, you're crying again,' and I just keep crying until the tortillas I make are wet with tears.'

Her husband was a hard worker and each weekend when he rode the 40 miles back to Ejido Sonora he had a few American dollars to pay for the flour for tortillas, the shoes for the 3 children and medicines for his sick wife.

He rarely complained about his long hours of work, but would not let Mario immigrate to the U.S. until he had finished his basic schooling. He did not want his son to endure the same hardships he had as a migrant farm worker.

On a corner of land in the Ejido he built his family a home: one room with pasteboard walls and thatch roof and the other an open-air kitchen with walls made of sticks. He planned to build another house and had purchased the crossbeams for it one by one. The posts remain in place, a reminder of his unfinished life.

But life goes on for the rest of the family. Maria Luisa de Cabrera looks to her barefoot children and says 'I don't want to be poor, but I would rather be poor and have my man with me. The insurance money was all used up to buy the walls for the new house. I tell my children to wait a while for clothes, but how long can they wait?'

"It was the salt that killed the land." --THE MARTINEZ FAMILY

The nine children of the Martinez family tasted the bitterness of poisoned salty water for the second time when their mother Angelina lost her brief but desperate battle to free herself from the jumbled bus seats in the cold and murky Rannells drain ditch.

The salty water which killed her flows south to Mexico, to further destroy the land in the Mexicali Valley where the family once had a farm.

The farm was located in the Ejido Narayit in the Mexicali Valley. But, recalls twenty-two year old Maria Martinez, the land began to go bad about seven or eight years ago, and Angelina, who was a U.S. citizen, decided to go north to the border to look for work in the fields of the American growers.

'It was the salt, the salt that killed the land,' she says in a quiet voice. 'We all worked on the land to try to make it produce, but every year the wheat got shorter and shorter. We could never understand.'

'We couldn't live any more without another way to get food and money. She went away to Mexicali for five days a week and came home on the weekends.'

'She never told us much about the work,' says Edela, two years younger than Maria. 'She didn't complain, we didn't ask. She brought us the money we needed.'

There is an irony to the story of the water, a bitter irony. In the 1940's the United States signed an agreement with Mexico about the use of the waters of the Colorado River. The agreement divided up the water that brought life to the desert, life to the Imperial Valley in the north and to the Mexicali Valley in the south, the land of the ejidos where the Martinez family had its farm.

The Mexicali Valley could have been as rich as the Imperial Valley, with the water bringing life.

But it brought death instead. The Americans devised a plan to cheat, a plan to increase their share of the water. They would send the water to Mexico after they used it.

'Whoever shall control the right to divert these turbid waters will be master of this empire,' wrote one of their propagandists in 1900. 'Without the right and the ability to use this water nothing is possible.'

So thousands of miles of canals were built and the water from the river ran through and washed away the salt and took it by way of the drainage ditches, 10 feet deep, back to the river.

From there it flowed on down to Mexico where the campesinos tried to use it on their lands. But the water only brought more salt to the Mexicali Valley and the land died.

So the Martinez family moved north. They wanted to be closer to the border so Angelina wouldn't have to travel so much to be with them.

She arranged for her husband Juan to obtain a green card so he could work in the fields as well - the fields of another instead of fields that belonged to his family.

Then one morning, when the bus taking Angelina to work veered off the road into the drainage ditch, the salty, smelly water struck a second time.

Maria and Edela ran the Martinez household for the seven years while Angelina worked in the fields, and she had been their mother for only a few hours every night when she returned, yet she had been their mother and she had held the family together, and now she was gone.



Esther Mendoza: 'I hope this doesn't happen to others.'



Manuel Mendoza, 20, and Esther, 6. 'I used to notice how Ayala's buses were,' says Manuel. 'I always tried to sit near the back, because, well, there's more of a chance of getting free if there were any problem.'

Esther Mendoza- "We must fight for an end to all this now."

Esther Mendoza is a quiet woman, a confident woman, a firm woman. She speaks softly, and her gaze can bring tears to your eyes as fast as her smile can wipe them away.

Her family of eleven is now a family of seven -- her husband Manuel, teenage son Javier, and daughters Lucia and Maria died in a labor contractor's bus.

But it is still a family: Manuel, Antonio, Nicolas, Julia, and Pedro.

The small house of the Mendoza family in Mexicali is a simple but warm place, filled with all the gatherings of a family who has lived in one place for nine years. In the front room is a double bed and two single beds, as well as a few chairs and on the dressing table, the alter used for the Novena, a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, four glasses of water and lighted candles.

'Now that the house is emptier we have to try to raise our spirits,' she says, 'because however you look at it, they're gone away. I hope it doesn't happen to others. We must fight for an end to all this now, because if we don't, so many people will have died in vain. We must do it not only for so many people we have lost but also for our-

selves who still work over there.

'We've been 12 or 13 years here in Mexicali. Before, we lived in lots of places. Because my husband didn't have papers, we came into Texas as wetbacks.

'We like it here. My husband got working papers all by himself, he didn't need a lawyer. I'm an American citizen and we immigrated our children. The immigration officials wanted to see the electric bills from the day I was born, but as my husband was immigrated, he made the application.

'First he got the son immigrated, then the two girls, who had then but little time before they died.

'When I couldn't get out to work because of the small children, he followed the lettuce further north to Salinas and when the children grew we sent them to stay with my father in the South and my husband and I would go north.

'I felt good about this because the two little girls could do all the household chores. The oldest knew how to do everything, she was about 12 or 13 years old and prepared the meals and sent the others to school. The girls, before they could cross the border, packed the day's lunches.

'All through the years we used to get up at 3 or 4 in the morning. Every day we made flour tortillas. Sometimes there was a line at the border and sometimes not, but it was never a problem getting across. And then it was to work, Let's go!

'All along my husband wanted a new station wagon in better shape to take the girls to the fields, because, well, they are young women and how were they to ride along with the jumble of workers in the buses?

'And always we would go in our station wagon to the fields, following the loaded buses. This year we started here late, around the middle of November. We almost always went with Rodriguez, he's been a good person with us. Recently he told us there was very little work and we should look elsewhere.

'In the last few days they had gone in the bus because it left very early for Blythe and Roberto wanted to get together the down payment on the new car of \$400, which was why he took the girls to work.

'He wanted them to work for the payments and to keep the smaller girls in school. The two girls who died finished grade school and the boy that died was in junior high.

'We were going to join the Union. He said two or three times that as soon as things smoothed up a bit and the work came on strong he was going to join all of us up, the girls especially, because that was how they were to get used to the work in the fields.

'He was a Union member at one time, only he was a man never at peace. He came and went, and went now here and now there, and didn't calculate... I'm not sure how to put it.

Some lawyers came and they told me they were from Los Angeles. They said, we've come so that if you want us to help you, sign here, and I told them, I don't know nothing (of this), I'm unaware of all these things. I turned my case over to Mr. Chavez, I told them, and you arrange it with him. I'll do whatever Mr. Chavez says.

I think people should help the people who need it most. I can work for my family but other families were left with no one to help them. There are kids who were left even worse off than mine because there are five here and my son and if we had all passed away, all the workers in the family, just the little girls would have remained alone.'

Angelina Hernandez- "My husband talked to me as if he knew he were going to die."

The three children of Francisco Nuñez Castillo play in the puddles in front of their house in Colonia Baja California, Mexicali.

Inside the fatherless home there are no blankets on the beds no milk for the baby, no money to buy either water or tortillas.

Angelina Hernandez looks first to her children and then to the cross painted in flour on the cement floor, as she talks about her life:

"My husband talked to me as if he knew he were going to die. He told me, 'Look, one day when I have time, I'm going to register our daughter with Social Security, because you know how I have to travel here and there and something could happen to me one day.'

"My oldest son fainted, he got very sick. They took him to the Red Cross hospital. Junita was crying and sobbing, 'Papá, why did you leave us?' And only just now

have I gotten her to eat."

"Francisco said that the contractors pushed them to work faster and faster and were slavedrivers. He said that those buses were very old, because they say that the seats came off and killed them. I think they're to blame for it.

"If God permits I am going to do what I used to do when he lived. When he went to work in the fields I'd go around door-to-door selling second-hand clothes.

"My girl that's 16 only made it to fourth grade at school, because she had to help me at home. We would go and sell clothes in the ranchos. And when my husband didn't work he helped us.

I'll keep doing it now to help us out because if not, what will we do? If only he were here, we would eat just beans, but he wouldn't have gone away.... But now I don't feel like doing anything. I am sad and only God knows what lies ahead."

Jesus Gonzalez-

"It's been hard for me."

Jesus Gonzalez has been in a hospital paralyzed from the waist down since the morning he was caught in Jesus Ayala's death trap.

It would have been his second day working in Ayala's crews. Job shortages in the tangerines had forced him to go to the hated short-handled hoe and the long unpaid bus rides. Now, he may never walk again.

Jesus Gonzalez is far from home, a palm-woven 'Cachania' in the Ejido Nayarit, some 40 miles south of Mexicali where his wife Matilda and large family wait for his return.

He lies in an antiseptic room in the Loma Linda Hospital, where no one speaks Spanish. 'It has been hard for me, since no one knew about me,' said the 48-year old farm worker, who is a Union member. He did not yet know that his brothers and sisters on a UFW crew at the Freedman ranch in Coachella had taken up a collection and sent him \$28.50 as soon as

they heard about him.

Still, it will be a long struggle for Jesus Gonzalez. He will probably return home to his family in a wheel chair. The doctors plan a massive rehabilitation program for him, for they see he is a strong man. In addition, says Campesino Center staff trainer Ann McGregor, who initially handled his case, an insurance settlement will be a long time in coming and his family's needs will have to wait.

But he is not alone. In Calexico, Tina Solinas of the Campesino Center and Dr. Graham Fincke of the UFW clinic are ready to accompany him on his long road to recovery. Union members are planning to visit him at the hospital. And letters of hope and solidarity to him can be addressed to:

Room 7206
Loma Linda University Hospital
Barton and Anderson Streets
Loma Linda, California 93254

'THE UNION WAS THERE'



There are many sides to a tragedy. Lives are lost for no other apparent reason than greed, homes are destroyed, grief is deep.

The days and weeks after the Blythe massacre are such a time for hundreds of persons. As one man expresses it, 'Of course we cried when the coffins went by, for those that were killed were all of us.'

For many families struck by this horror the National Farm Workers Service Center in Calexico became a sort of life line, a human connection to the largely unresponsive and impersonal bureaucracies of the U.S. Dept. of Immigration, Social Security, Labor Commission, and other agencies.

A widowed mother with no milk for her child, an injured man who cannot return to his wife in Mexico, a paralyzed brother that asks for someone to talk to, these are but a few of the farm

workers that came to the Service Center every day after the bus massacre.

The dimension of human problems is huge, while the staff of the Centro de Servicio is small. But Gilbert Rodriguez and Victoriano Guicho, John Osborne and Tina Solinas don't go home each night until every farm worker in the small office has been cared for.

Tina Solinas doesn't sleep very much - she says she doesn't have time. But one evening she took a few minutes to talk about her work after the bus 'accident': 'We tried to locate the families, made sure they saw doctors, took them food, offered the legal advice of the Union lawyers, making sure people didn't get lost in the scuffle.'

'All this time Union members were there ... at the Mass and march the Union sponsored, in the people's homes, at the velorio and later at the cemetery.

'We talked to the people and made sure that whatever they wanted we tried to fight for. That's when the people started looking at things differently, since the other agencies had made their promises and left.

'All they (the agencies) think of is, 'Oh, an accident, money.' Lawyers coming from all over hassling the widows, trying to get them to sign up so that they can get in on the money.

'The funeral director getting as much money and giving as little as possible, nothing.

'The Industrial Indemnity insurance lawyers not sending out checks to the families as soon as they could and not going out to try and find the people, or even trying to find the people who could find them, because they wanted to save money.

'The worst thing is knowing that some women are not going to get anything at all and knowing

they deserve it more than anyone else, all because of some discriminating law that says that anyone living on the outside of the U.S. has to prove that she was his wife, that this man was sustaining her. This is the law only for aliens.

'The families that live here on the border face big financial problems ... they face insecurity problems; women alone with young kids.

'All farm worker families face the problems of seasonal work because only 3-4 months out of the year is there work to be found here. Either their husbands have to go up north and they don't see them for 5-6 months at a time, or their husbands stay here and they don't have much to eat at all.

'There's no doctor, or no money for the doctor.

'The prices of food are going sky high; doubling, tripling.

'Their husbands cross the line and the women don't know what happens to them because they can't pass.

The officers on the line think they're gods -- they think they're better than everyone that crosses that line. They consider the people like flies they want to get away from.

'The Union members have been wherever the people needed them. For the families of the dead and injured, the Union came through.

'In the funeral of Julio Ramirez Fernandez, the farm worker that was left in Blythe, the people who covered him up with dirt were all Union members. The people who carried the casket were all Union members.

'They didn't know him but they were there because he was a worker.

'The people gathered money together because the dead were workers.

'The Union members spent the whole night at the funeral home because they were their companions. And they knew they'd need help, even if they weren't Union members.

'They knew that the first thing farm workers have to do is unite when there is a problem.

'Farm workers knew that and they knew they'd need all the solidarity they could get and they were there. They have not stopped being there since the day of the massacre.

'The sooner we get these contracts the sooner more people will be able to be Union members.

'Union members are different, you know. Once they've been a member or through a strike they're different. They don't take as much bullshit from the mayordomos and the contractors.

'There are a lot of Union members around here. You go into the other fields where these members are and these fields are different.

'They keep together -- it's something that people learn that you can't ever get rid of.

'There is something that I learned and I can't quite figure out what it is, but it came from facing all those women ... and facing all those men, the dead husbands.

'I saw the things they left undone ... he was going to immigrate his family some other day ... he was going to tell his wife about certain things another day ... he was going to finish building his house another day ... she was going to get back together with her husband another day.'



CALEXICO CLINIC OPENS DOORS

CALEXICO, Ca. -- Injured survivors of the bus massacre in Blythe have found a warm and friendly source of follow-up medical treatment at the UFW clinic in Calexico.

'We've opened our facilities to all the injured workers on the bus,' said clinic administrator Heidi Urich. 'People immediately turned to the Union for help, and we've done all we can to care for their injuries and help them get over the trauma of the experience.'

As soon as the clinic learned

of the crash, staff doctor Benjamin Fincke hurried to Blythe expecting to go right into emergency medical work. But, he says, the staff and facilities of the Palo Verde hospital did an excellent job of providing emergency care for all the injured.

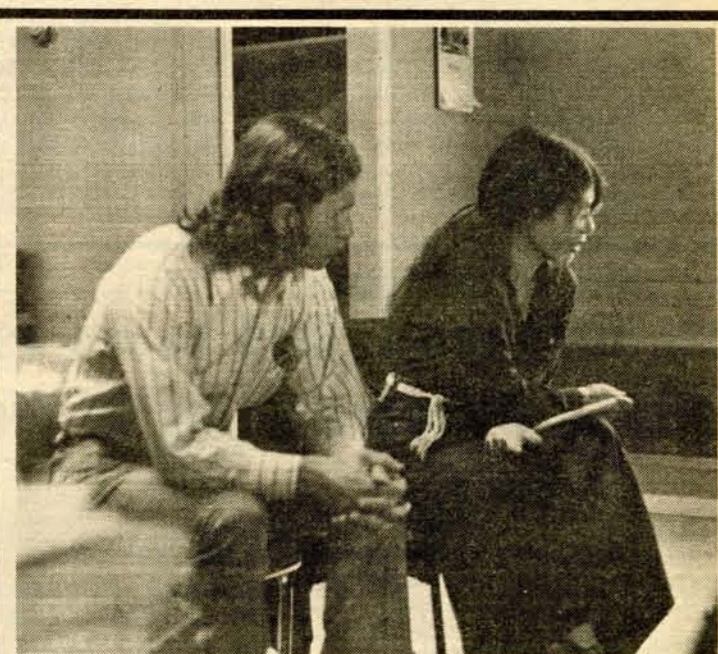
'So we prepared ourselves for when the workers returned to Calexico,' said Urich.

'Mexican workers who have green cards to work in this country are cut off from Mexican social security, so for them this clinic is a unique facility.

We provide medical services they could otherwise not get.'

2000 families in the Imperial Valley are enrolled in the UFW's Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan and use the facilities and services of the clinic and its fifteen staff members.

A particular feature of the clinic's services, according to Urich, is the home visiting program, where clinic staff members visit workers' families in their homes for such purposes as vaccination programs and classes for expectant mothers.



Shown here are Deborah Peyton and Daniel Boone, two members of the UFW legal staff who have recently arrived in Calexico to assist farm workers in their struggle against the Teamsters and to assist the victims of the Blythe bus massacre in obtaining the benefits they deserve.

'We've been meeting with survivors of the massacre and the families of those killed to acquaint them with their rights,' said Boone, 'and to begin the process of obtaining insurance payments and other state benefits.'

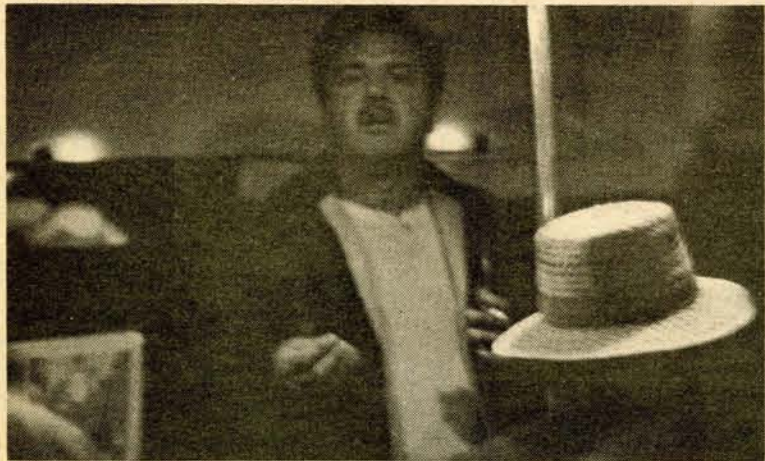
According to Peyton, 'We've talked with many workers here who are very angry at the way the Teamsters take dues money even when they haven't signed authorization cards. And there is a lot of resentment at the way the Teamsters trick people into signing those cards.'

'We're here to help the workers kick the Teamsters out of here.'

Farm workers fight terrible trinity

'The time has come for us to move!'

Ricardo Villalpando



'Let's go. To the buses' shouts a voice from the Calexico Union field office in the early morning hours of January 25.

50 men and women take to the streets to carry out the campaign against the abuses of the 'terrible trinity': the ranchers, the labor contractors and the Teamsters.

One of the Unionists is Ricardo Villalpando, an organizer of the UFW. He knows the people, he knows farm labor - that's why he is in charge of the inspection and education campaign on the buses in Calexico.

He boards a crowded bus of the William Hubbard Co., greets the farm workers, the crew boss, and begins to speak to them.

'We are here to tell you that you can revoke the signatures made with the Teamsters. What

has happened from the beginning is that they say, 'Look, you have got to sign this paper so that the company can deduct your insurance coverage for the doctors in Mexicali.'

'But it is a lie, isn't it, because on the back side where you signed your names it says, 'I authorize the company to deduct Teamster dues from my salary.'

'What's happening now is that the Teamsters and the growers have become sweethearts, because the Teamsters are the ranchers and they hired persons for \$375 a week to push you, and steal your signatures for the \$8 dues.

'Has any one of you ever received Teamster benefits?' asks Villalpando to the 40 workers.

'No one!' responds a voice from the back of the bus.

'On the other hand,' returns Villalpando, 'our organization has a medical plan, the Kennedy Plan, and many other services that the grower has to pay. And that's why the grower doesn't want to sign with the United Farm Workers, because it's more money for him.

'What they are interested in is land, more and more land, and higher production so they can grow still richer. And their earnings come out of our salaries.'

Stop the death buses

'We must realize that if we do not take action now, we will never do it. It's the same thing with the buses - we are going to put on the pressure so that these things don't continue.

'Many of you can remember that in 1955 in Soledad there was a bus crash in which 27 brothers were burned and many of them later died. They never got a penny. They sent them to a hospital in Monterey and after about three months sent them off, back to their homes. I can tell you about it because I was there. It was the same thing that happened in Chula Vista.

'We're not going to lose this struggle because there are many campesinos involved. We must take our anger to those in the companies who have robbed us. They have become rich while we remain down here. The time has come for us to move!'



Rosario Pelayo

'They can't run us out because we are workers and we pick the crops. So please defend your rights and go to the Union office.'

Workers donate to bus victims

Widow Maria Luisa de Cardenas received a check for \$87.85 from Pablo Garcia, treasurer of the Bus Accident Victims' Benefit Fund. The presentation of the check January 30 in Ejido Sonora, Baja California, to Mrs. Cardenas is the first of many made from a fund of over \$2,500 collected by the committee from individual donations, the majority made by farm workers.

"This is a generous example of all farm workers," said Pablo Garcia, "because it is proof of the solidarity of our brothers. We farm workers have always been aware of our brothers. Since we are all campesinos, we feel the pain."

The beneficiary fund was established in a meeting of the United Farm Workers of America January 17 at the Jefferson School in Calexico. The elected officers of this committee are: President, Cirilo Cordova; Secretary, Armando Ruiz; Treasurer, Pablo Garcia; Sargeant-at-Arms, Rosario Pelayo and Rebeca Buelna.



This farm worker committee will administer all monies collected for distribution for the nineteen crash victims.

Anyone, individual or organization, wishing to contribute to

this most worthy fund in solidarity may do so by addressing: Comité por Ayuda de Accidentados de Blythe P.O. Box 1940, Calexico, California

Rosario Pelayo is another of the 50 Union members this day that spoke to brothers and sisters on the contractor and company buses.

'The growers say, 'If you don't sign with the Teamsters we're going to run you out.' But no, brothers and sisters, they can't run us out because we are workers and we pick the crops. So please defend your rights and go to the Union office. If any person signs, go to revoke it there and they will help you.'

Later in the Union hiring hall Rosario, mother of six children,

told El Malcriado,

'We are here in the hiring hall and outside on the buses at five in the morning because we know that we must keep working together to sign with more companies. Right?

'We must work for those who are outside the Union, who have to get up at two and three in the morning to see if by chance they'll be given work.

'The struggle of our brothers and sisters is crucial, because we know that we are now struggling not for ourselves, but for the well-being of our children.'



photo: Fred Bauman

'We must all become organizers'

"We are united in our sorrow but also in our anger... This tragedy happened because of the big growers who do not care about the safety of the workers and who expose them to grave dangers when they transport them in wheeled coffins to the fields...."

--CESAR CHAVEZ

FARM WORKERS KILLED IN THE BUS MASSACRE IN BLYTHE JANUARY 15, 1974

PABLO NAVARRO ARELLANO, 54, OF CAL-EXICO, CA., SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, CONSUELO ARELLANO AND 4 CHILDREN.

TEODOLO GILBERTO C. CABRERA, 43, OF MEXICALI, B.C., MEXICO, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE MARIA LUISA RODRIGUEZ CHAVEZ DE CABRERA AND 3 CHILDREN.

LIBRADO ZAZUETA Cárdenas, 62, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE MARIA LUISA DE Cárdenas AND 3 CHILDREN.

JULIO RAMIREZ FERNANDEZ, 60, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE SUSANA RAMIREZ AND 5 CHILDREN.

SANTO MORALES GAITAN, 67, OF SAN FERNANDO, CA.

JUAN CASTRO HURTADO, 42, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS MOTHER, CRUZ CASTRO.

CARLOS OLGUIN LOPEZ, 53, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE DORA LIZARDI RINCON OLGUIN.

JUAN PEREZ MANRIQUEZ, 26, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS MOTHER REMEDIOS PEREZ AND TWO YOUNGER BROTHERS.

ANGELA VERDUGO DE MARTINEZ, 43, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HER HUSBAND, JUAN F. MARTINEZ AND 10 CHILDREN.

JOSE ANGUIANO MARTINEZ, 43, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE CLARA MELGOZA AND 5 CHILDREN.

MANUEL MENDOZA COVARRUBIAS, 42, OF MEXICALI, FATHER OF THREE CHILDREN KILLED IN THE CRASH, AND SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE ESTHER VILLA DE MENDOZA AND SIX CHILDREN.

JAVIER MENDOZA, 16, OF MEXICALI

LUCIA VILLA MENDOZA, 18, OF MEXICALI,

MARIA MENDOZA, 17, OF MEXICALI.

FRANCISCO CASTILLO NUNEZ, 33, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE ANGELINA HERNANDEZ AND THREE CHILDREN.

GREGORIO PEREZ PEREZ, 22, OF MEXICALI,

PABLO TANGUNIA, AGE UNKNOWN, OF BLYTHE, CA.

SAD MARCH TO MEXICALI

Fourteen boxes lifted shoulder high, love's own burden slowly passing by

Black flags waving in the sun crowds of weeping hearts walking together as one

From afar I saw the procession then scalding tears obscured my vision.

by Frankie Rea



photo: Fred Bauman

FARM WORKERS INJURED IN BLYTHE BUS WRECK

AVATO ARSE, 44, MEXICALI.
SOCORRO JACQUES BARIENDA, 35, MEXICALI.
MARIO CALDERAS, 25, HURON, CA.
ANDREAS R. FIERRO, 50, MEXICALI.
JESUS GONZALES, 27, MEXICALI.
ROBERTO GONZALEZ, 27, MEXICALI.

SALVADORE MORENO, 40, MEXICALI.
SONIA A. NIEMBLA, 18, MEXICALI.
VICTORIAL SOLARIO OCHOA, 76, MEXICALI.
SANTOS JINIMIEZ PAGADOR, 19, MEXICALI.
LUIS LOPEZ RAMIRES, 54, MEXICALI.
ANTONIO ROBLES, 48, MEXICALI.

"...There have been so many accidents in the fields, on trucks, under machines, in buses, so many accidents involving farm workers which have affected so many of us.

People ask if they are deliberate. They are deliberate in the sense that they are the direct result of a farm labor system that treats workers like agricultural implements - not human beings. These accidents happen because employers and labor contractors treat us as if we were not important beings...."

MARCO B. JIMINEZ, 19, MEXICALI.
DICK LABIS, 57, MEXICALI.
ISIDRO LOZANO, 17, MEXICALI.
ARMANDO MANZANARES, 17, MEXICALI.
JULIAN MANZANARES, 51, MEXICALI.
PEDRO MELGAREJO FERREIRA, 64, MEXICALI.
JOAQUIN MORALES, 42, MEXICALI.

EUSEBIO RODRIQUEZ, 23, HOLLYWOOD, CA.
JUAN GOVEA RODRIGUEZ, 50, MEXICALI.
RUDY ROMERO, 35, BRENTWOOD, CA.
SIMON TALAVERA, 50, LOS ANGELES, CA.
CARMEN MATA VALDEZ, 47, CALEXICO.
FRANCISCO VALDEZ, 50, CALEXICO.
MAURICIO VILLARREAL, 46, MEXICALI.



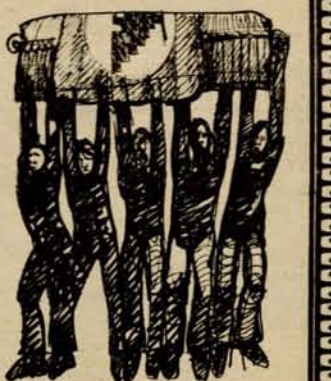
"...Brothers and sisters, the men and women we honor here today are important human beings. They are important because they are from us. We cherish them. We love them. We will miss them.

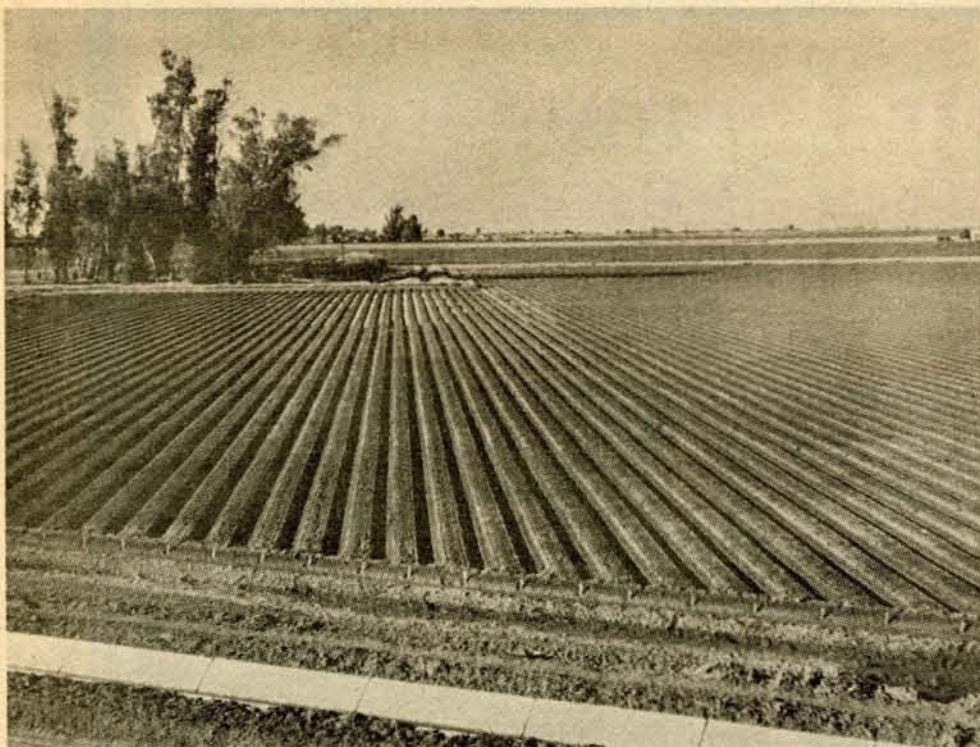
They are important because of the love they have given to their husbands and wives and children and parents and all those who were close to them and who needed them.

They are important because of the work they do. They are not implements to be used and discarded. They are human beings who sweat and sacrifice to bring food to the tables of millions and millions of people throughout the world...."

MANUEL REYNA TORRES, 57, OF MEXICALI, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE MARIA ALVARES, DE TORRES, AND DAUGHTER, AND THREE GRANDCHILDREN.

PABLO RAMIREZ TORRES, 38, OF CALEXICO, SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE FRANCISCA BERNAL MONTES AND 2 CHILDREN.





The Imperial Valley has become one of the richest agricultural centers in the nation, thanks to a \$123 million a year federally subsidized irrigation system and starvation wages paid to farm workers.



Meanwhile in Mexicali, the same farm workers are relegated to desperate lives in the sewage and garbage-strewn streets of Mexicali, crowded with 500,000 persons lured to the border with false promises of Yankee gold.

ELISEO SIERRA 'THE GROWERS ARE TO BLAME' CHAUFFEUR:

'Contractors? I work with them and I work with companies. I'm a crew boss. I get crews from all over - that's why I know that the people, you've got to treat them right.

'But the contractors aren't safe with the people, because they don't care if you have a driver's license or not. A crew boss usually gets paid \$30, for example, but a lot of contractors only want to pay between \$15 and \$20.

'It doesn't matter to them if you've got a license, just so you race that bus and work the people to death. Who cares if you're drunk or not, you go and do it anyway.

'That contractor that had the accident, he didn't care if the driver was drunk or not. I mean, an individual that has such a responsibility has to make sure that the crew-boss isn't sleepy, or drunk and say, 'Hey man, go get some sleep and work tomorrow instead.' But no, they don't care how the people get there.

'At the Inter Harvest Company (under a UFW contract) where these people work, the crewboss has to come to work in good condition. These companies are huge, they've got work all year around. There is plenty of time to sleep; that's why they give them a break, so the crew boss can get enough sleep.

'But for the rest of us drivers who are not organized we have to come at 1 o'clock in the morning to see if there is any work.

'Then three and a half hours of traveling, his bus full of people, behind him. How do you think he can go to work all day long and afterwards fill the bus again and drive back to Calexico and go back to sleep? And to put in gas?

'When is there time to sleep? You sleep 2 or 3 hours at the most. That is if you don't drink and run around with the roosters that get off the bus and go into a bar.

'The driver has to be well-rested - he's going to drive people. If he were to kill himself, that's one thing, but to kill all those innocent lives, I don't

MILLION DOLLAR CROPS 1971 - 1972

LETTUCE.....	\$ 60,136,000	CARROTS.....	\$ 3,945,000
HAY, ALFALFA.....	34,136,000	ONIONS.....	3,384,000
SUGAR BEETS.....	28,647,000	PASTURE, RYEGRASS.....	3,375,000
COTTON LINT.....	19,102,000	ASPARAGUS.....	3,164,000
CANTALOUPE.....	10,786,000	ALFALFA, DEHYDRATED.....	2,184,000
WHEAT.....	7,740,000	PASTURE, ALFALFA.....	1,995,000
SORGHUM.....	6,900,000	COTTON SEED.....	1,581,000
BARLEY.....	5,040,000	WATERMELON.....	1,316,000
TOMATOES.....	4,925,000		

Imperial County Agriculture

From the Office of the Agricultural Commissioner

see that as right at all.'

Rancher is the real boss

'I take the people to the fields and then the grower gets there and begins to watch them.

'Look,' he tells me, 'that fat old woman is no good. And look, that fat man is no good. Get them out of here.'

'Do I have to give them their 4 hours due?' I ask him.

'No sir, you don't have to give them anything. Stop them and pay them what they worked.'

'What would you do? The crew boss has to stop those persons. I don't like it because I have been a worker all my life, but they order you and you've got to do it.

'The people get mad at the crew boss because he stops them. They say, 'The old bastard, he doesn't like me', but its because of the grower.

'The grower leaves but he's really watching the people work from far off with binoculars. Then he comes straight to the crew boss and tells him, 'Stop that man, he's no good.'

'That's why I say that it's so bad. Here in the Imperial Valley they're all alike. All the ranchers want loads of work, loads. Most



times the bad guys are the growers.

'But many times its the supervisors of the companies that are necessary to push the people. They also tell the contractor, 'Get that man out'...that crew boss is no good'...that crew is

no good because it didn't get much work done.'

'The company doesn't directly push the people, it doesn't tell them anything. And that slow crew boss, they take him out too.'

In the Union

'In the Union there is a grievance Committee. If a complaint is against the crew boss, the Committee must resolve it, but the crew boss must come to speak his word. Since the crew bosses are hired by the Company, they aren't part of the Union.

'The crew elects the Committee. They see that no worker is fired, that drinking water and cups are provided, that the toilets are clean...this is the work of the Committee.

'Often there are fights between the Committee and the crew boss. For instance, say I'm the crew boss. One person is lagging way behind and I get mad because he's behind and tell him to hurry it up.

'Now a person should work according to his physical condition, whether it be age, or he doesn't know the work (inexperience) or because his body can't do it. So this person has to communicate to the Crew Committee.

'Then the crew boss has to talk to the Committee so they can make him see that this person should not be pushed, because that's the way the contract is. The crew boss can slow down the people that go too fast, but he can't stop those who go slower.

'That happened to me last year. Work was over here so I went with a labor contractor to work in the sugarbeets and I was so worn out that I had to stop working for about three days. I just couldn't get over the exhaustion.

'But not here. You don't force your body. You work along at your own pace. Outside they force you at their pace. One day they watch you to see if you work furiously and the next day they take you again. But if you don't work fast again, then they tell you that there's no more work.

'Usually they call those of us of the Union that work outside lazy. They know that we've come from the Union and they don't give us jobs.

Farm worker liberation:

From 'El Hoyo' to the Hiring Hall



2:30 am -- At El Hoyo (the Hole). Most of these men and women got off yesterday's contractor bus only six or seven hours earlier, but they cannot rest. Work here is for the young and strong, who have not yet ruined their health and suffered disabling injuries in farm labor. For the old, the sick and the injured there is no work today or any day - yet they come and wait and return home to hungry families.

6:30 am -- Workers of the Inter Harvest Co. meet at the UFW hiring hall in Calexico. They do not have to leave for work until 7:00, but many of the Union members come here hours earlier to plan and carry out the campaigns against unsafe buses, Teamster abuses and corrupt labor contractors. Hiring here is done by seniority and each works as best as he or she can.

Carlos Baraja

'The people are very united.'

'I was born in La Rosa Michoacan; I've been here since 1961, as an immigrant. I was here since 1951 as a bracero and then in '61 I had my papers fixed. Almost everyone came as braceros.

'Since 1970 I have been in the Union picking whatever it may be, cherries, peaches, oranges - because we didn't know anything about the movement when this movement of the grapes began the foreman said that Chavez was no good.

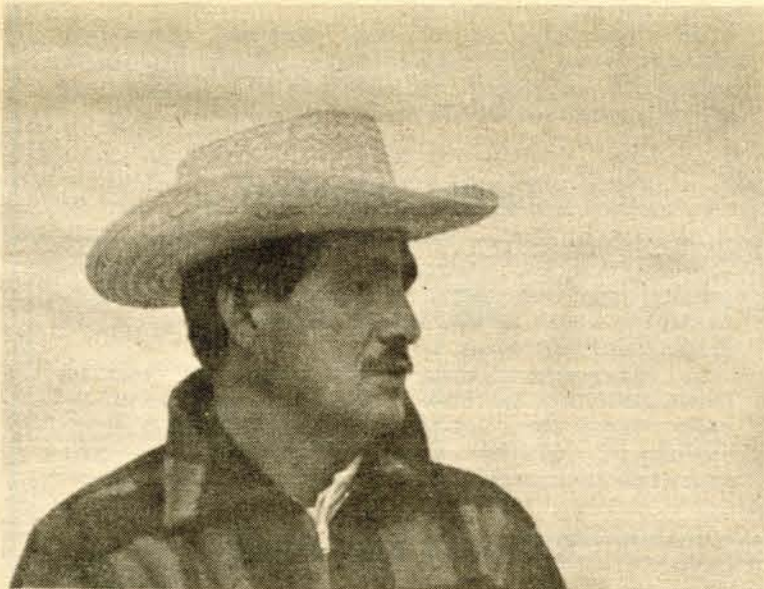
'But I saw the movement in Salinas begin, in the lettuce, and I saw that the Union is good, because they treat people well and all. Since then I've liked the Union very much.

'Now after the accident, the people say that there is no other Union than Chavez's. We carried the companeros, those that came from Calexico, 3 bodies in hearses and the rest thirteen, on our shoulders from here to as far as you could see.

'The Mexican army arrived to tell Chavez that the governments was at his service to help with whatever was necessary, there were the police, and everything was beautiful. In all the time I've been here never have I seen so much spirit, so much respect; because of this the people are recognizing the Union.

'The people are very united. If there will be a huelga, they won't wait any longer, they are pretty fed up.

'Some companeros used to arrive at the fields at 4:00 am and were there 9 hours. When they went home the children were already in bed, so that they left and arrived never seeing their children awake. They never had



"Now after the accident, the people say that there is no other Union than Chavez's. We carried the companeros, those that came from Calexico, 3 bodies in hearses and the rest thirteen, on our shoulders from here to as far as you could see."

the chance to show them any affection or anything.

'Now I leave home at 7:30 and the bus will wait for me until 8:00 am to take me to work. With the labor contractors, if you don't arrive at the bus on time they grab who-ever to fill the bus and go. The worker himself is of no importance to them, only the work.

'I am a member of the Union.

I have the obligation to come and help my brothers. I am enjoying my benefits and I want my brothers who aren't in the Union to enjoy them also.

'This is why I am here early in Calexico, with all of those companeros who worked in the same company, all of us are struggling so that our brothers will have the same benefits that I enjoy.'



Rebecca Buelna

'As a woman here, there's security.'

'It's much better here (at the hiring hall) because they don't exclude persons because they are too old, or too fat or because they're ugly. Here the company asks the hiring hall for a certain number of persons and by previous agreement doesn't specify how many men and women it should be. Here it just specifies the numbers of workers, so old and young, men and women can get the jobs.

'Outside they don't want old people -- just the young to work them to death. There comes a time when work gets scarce and one goes to work and they tell you, 'We don't want women; we want just men to do it.'

'As a woman here there's security that you're going to work, but not outside. You have to go and beg them, and still they ask you if you can work fast enough for them and if you can't, you just better not get on that bus.

'Here in the crews of Inter Harvest you work responsibly, you work normally. You're not going to be standing still, but not running either. You work like human beings, and not over there like animals where they've got you running back and forth all day long. And there are times when they don't eat, when they don't even give them time to drink water.

'But under contract we have 10 minute breaks in the morning and afternoon. There are no



'pushers' on our backs either...

'There's nothing like the Union. Why go scabbing outside and one day you get work and the next day nothing. That's the way it is outside of the Union; one day you go in one bus and the next day in another.

'We've got security here, the family is insured. But with a labor contractor not even the worker has insurance.

'Because I've worked with contractors that never even asked me my name or social security number. And what if something should happen? With what proof can my family make demands (for benefits) if they don't even have my social security number?

'They pay you in the field in cash - no check or receipt. I've worked for contractors that I didn't even know their name. I just got on the bus, they pay me and the next day with somebody else.'

Grami fails in bid for top Teamsters Union post

While farm workers prepare for another round of strikes against the Teamster-grower alliance, the most hostile anti-UFW forces within the Western Conference of Teamsters have been seriously weakened in recent weeks.

In December, the WCT agreed to a permanent court order prohibiting its hired goons from coming closer than 60 feet to UFW strike lines this year in Coachella. This restriction was accepted in order to avoid answering questions by UFW attor-

neys about the goons' identity, source of pay, and specific orders.

And in early January, word leaked to the public that head goon William Grami, also known as 'Director of Agricultural Organizing' for the WCT, had failed in his effort to take Einar Mohn's place as head of the WCT.

Mohn, who has announced his retirement effective in July, will instead be replaced by M.E. And-

erson, head of the largest Teamster local in Los Angeles. Grami has been known to want the job very badly as a means of stepping up his attacks on the UFW.

of these could be found, the goons instead turned their attention to harassing UFW picket lines.

For months newspapers around the country carried photos of these assorted filthy-looking thugs armed with chains, baseball bats, leadpipes, and 'Viva los Teamsters' buttons attacking strikers and organizers in the Coachella and San Joaquin Valleys.

Goons make headlines

Grami dispatched the goons to the UFW strikes last year allegedly to 'protect' Teamster farm workers. But since none

in heavily pro-UFW neighborhoods.

In addition the Santa Cruz Market chain of nine stores agreed not to reorder Gallo wines for any of its stores after the present stock is sold. Negotiations with the management of Santa Cruz Markets were conducted by Oxnard UFW director Jesus Villegas and Pete Relis of the Santa Barbara Friends of the Farm Workers.

Editors hear from us

SEATTLE, Wash. -- UFW supporter Lynn Martin here suggests massive 'Letters-to-the-Editor' campaigns to beat down grower attempts to use the food pages of newspapers and magazines as propaganda sheets for their scab products.

Martin has been conducting her own letter campaign against the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, which has run at least two articles promoting grapes.

N.J. clergymen boycott

CAMDEN, New Jersey -- The Commission on Social Justice of the Diocese of Camden, headed by Bishop George H. Guilfoyle, gave its support to the UFW grape and lettuce boycott.

The Commission said it 'publicly identifies with, and completely supports, the Catholic Bishops of the United States in their call for justice on behalf of farm workers in the basic right to organize.'

The Commission said it would distribute educational material on the farm workers issue, promote ecumenical support for the boycott, and unite with other organizations presently concerned with the needs of farm workers.

Target Tehachapi

TEHACHAPI, Ca. -- Members of the UFW La Paz administrative staff have begun a boycott campaign in nearby Tehachapi, aimed at cleaning out the town's stores of scab grapes, lettuce and wines.

La Paz residents voted to stop shopping at Tehachapi stores until they are clean. A boycott committee has already visited store managers and informed them of the boycott. A leafleting campaign is planned to build public support for the boycott.

Safeway bias charge

SEATTLE, Wash. -- Former Safeway guard Harold Evans recently joined the Safeway boycott here and said he was filing charges against Safeway with the Seattle Human Rights Commission for discriminatory hiring and promotion policies.

'Safeway employees are quietly but firmly discouraged from sympathizing with the UFW,' he said, 'and as a black man, who has not lost his identity as a black man nor his pride, I publicly apologize for any part I may have played in hindering your progress and effectiveness in your present boycott.'

Rev. Day goes to jail

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. -- Rev. Garnett Day, Jr., a member of the National Farm Worker Ministry Executive Board and a strong La Causa backer, has begun serving a ninety-day jail sentence following a conviction for involvement in a draft board anti-war sit-in here in March, 1970.

Under the terms of the sentence, Day is allowed to work at his job with the Church in Society organization during the day and must spend his nights in jail.

Day was among more than 400 picketers arrested in Lamont in late July of 1973 for violation of an injunction at Roberts Farms. He spent three days in the Bakersfield jail at that time, but no charges were filed.

Headlines arouse anger

The violence of the goons against strikers served only to strengthen the determination of those on the picket line and to further convince the American people of the depths of official Teamster corruption.

Many rank-and-file Teamsters were angered by the outrageous behavior of the goons in the name of their union, and even International Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons must have realized that something was wrong when two of his own staff members were attacked by goons when they were sent to Coachella on a 'fact-finding' mission.

Anger raises questions

As the strikes progressed and the behavior of the goons became even more violent, the anger of the people on the picket lines and across the country grew. They asked if there wasn't a conspiracy between the Teamsters and the growers behind these attacks.

Who were these gorillas, they wanted to know. Who paid them their \$67.50 a day? What were their specific instructions?

Even some policemen in Coachella were quoted as saying the goon violence seemed planned and coordinated from above.

Finally, after a particularly vicious attack on a Kovacevich picket line June 28 near Arvin in which 90 strikers were injured and 30 goons arrested, these 'guards' were withdrawn by the WCT. Grami used the lame excuse that they were no longer needed because there was 'adequate police protection,' but he knew he had been defeated.

Questions demand answers

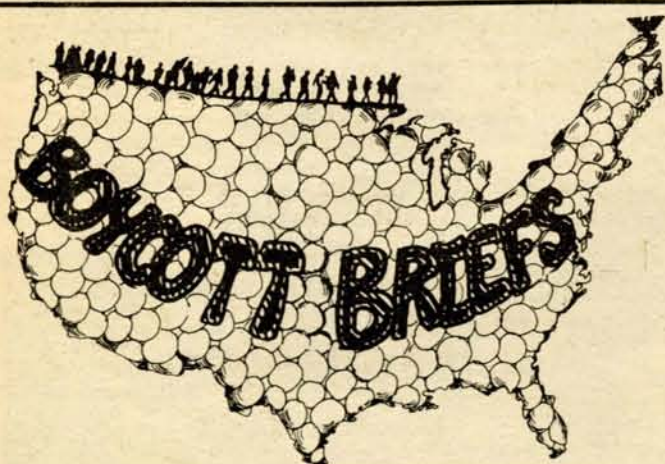
But once they were gone, the UFW pressed its efforts to keep them out. Union lawyers asked Riverside Judge Fred Metheny to make permanent a temporary order he had issued in June ordering the goons not to come closer than 60 feet to UFW picket lines. This would allow the goons to entertain themselves all they wanted by screaming and yelling, but strikers would be protected.

The WCT agreed to the restrictions rather than fight the UFW and have to reveal information about the goons.

Answers too hot to handle

Why do the Teamsters fear such simple questions? What do they have to hide? Would the answers to these questions reveal a pattern of grower payoffs and systematically-planned violence?

The Teamsters should learn from the Watergate scandals that all their efforts to conceal the truth about their conspiracies against the UFW will be in vain.



Newlyweds picket

SEATTLE, Wash. -- Newlyweds Sulema and Antonio Diaz brought their wedding party of 12 persons to picket Safeway January 15. 'We are part of the farm workers' struggle for liberation,' said Sulema Diaz, 'Being on the picket line on our wedding day is the right way to celebrate our marriage.'

Ohio boycott victory

CINCINNATI, Ohio -- Liberal Markets, a 35-store chain surrendered to boycotters January 10 after a five-month struggle. The grocery chain removed all grapes and non-UFW lettuce from its shelves, and in addition stopped all advertising of Gallo wines.

According to Cincinnati boycott director Wendy Schaezel, a UFW suit pending against Liberal Markets for mislabeling scab head lettuce as UFW-picked will keep the chain from reneging on the agreement.

Gallo vetoed by Arabs

SAN FRANCISCO, Ca. -- An organization of 85 Arab grocery store owners here has endorsed the Gallo boycott and has urged the city's nearly 400 Arab-owned stores to do the same.

According to the Independent Grocers Association President Fred Mogannam, a December 13 meeting between IGA members and Cesar Chavez was instrumental in securing the endorsement.

And Francisco boycott organizer Dan Sudran reports that since the endorsement was announced, many Arab-owned stores have not reordered Gallo and 'it has become noticeably easier to empty Arab-owned stores of the scab wine.'

Drop charges in S.F.

SAN FRANCISCO, Ca. -- Illegal assembly charges have been dropped here against 19 Gallo workers and their supporters who were arrested November 3 at Judell's, a liquor store in the Mission District.

The arrests came during the 'Clean sweep of Mission Street' campaign which by now has driven Gallo wines out of most of the Mission Street liquor stores.

According to Gallo Ranch Committee member Jose Villasaez, who was among those arrested, the 19 refused to consider entering 'No contest' pleas because 'it would have admitted we had done something wrong and would have given the San Francisco police a free hand to harass us.'

Faced with the determination of the 19 to demand a trial, the County of San Francisco dropped all charges.

Santa Barbara ousts Gallo

SANTA BARBARA, California -- The third largest market chain in the Oxnard-Santa Barbara-Ventura area has agreed to remove immediately all Gallo wines from its three stores



N.J. unionists picket Exxon

LINDEN, New Jersey -- Members and officers of three unions picketed the research center of Exxon Corp. here January 16, protesting the oil companies' staging of the fuel shortage for the purposes of driving up prices and increasing profits.

The unions represented were the United Auto Workers, the International Union of Electrical Workers, Radio, and Machine Workers, and the New Jersey Industrial Union Council. Shown here are members of the UAW local 906.

Uphold right to picket

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Monsignor George Higgins, research secretary for the United States Catholic Conference, recently exposed an attack on the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' support for the Farah strike as being based almost entirely on a pro-company pamphlet.

In his weekly syndicated column, 'The Yardstick', Higgins charged that Father Daniel Lyons 'paraphrased' from the pamphlet, which attacks El Paso (where Farah is located) Bishop Metzger, who

has supported the strike since it began in 1971.

Lyons, who writes for 'Twin Circle' and other right-wing Catholic publications, is a long-time foe of the United Farm Workers, as well as other progressive movements.

Exposes Farah propaganda

ROCHESTER, N.Y. -- Supporters of the striking Farah workers won a battle against a department store at a National Labor Relations Board hearing here which will allow them to keep picketing the store. The store, Sibley's, had attempted to prohibit picketing on the grounds that the picketers violated the secondary boycott provision of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

The picketers, members of the Center for United Labor Action, (CULA - a national workers support group not affiliated with any union) argued that they were not subject to the law because they were not members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, the union fighting for a contract with Farah Pants Co. in Texas.

A CULA spokesman said the attempt by the store to prohibit picketing was aimed at forcing any citizen support group of any labor union to submit to the boycott restrictions of the NLRA.

"Right-to-work" set back

LOS ANGELES, Ca. -- Organized labor won another round in early January in its continuing battle against so-called 'right-to-work' forces which seek to destroy the union shop.

The victory came when U.S. District Court Judge Harry Pregerson threw out a six-year old suit against the International Association of Machinists filed by a small group of non-union workers at an aircraft plant in Los Angeles.

The workers had charged that the union illegally used their dues for political purposes with which they did not agree. But

Pregerson ruled that the union had a proper procedure for refunding a portion of their dues to such workers.

'In my view, political activities are germane to collective bargaining in many ways,' said Pregerson. 'One would have to be blind to history not to understand that political activities in a sense are the blood and sinews of the American labor movement.'

The people are catching on

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- According to a recent public opinion survey, 75% of the American people believe that "special interests get more from the government than the people do."

The poll, conducted for a senate committee by Louis Harris also reveals that more than three-fourths of those questioned believe that "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer."

And 55% believe that "the people who run this country don't really care what happens to you." In 1966, according to Harris, only 6% of the people agreed with this statement.

Wounded Knee victories

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As the trial of militant Indians in Wounded Knee was about to begin, three Indians were acquitted here on charges stemming from the occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in November, 1972.

In less than one hour, a federal jury acquitted Keevar Locklear, Dock Locklear, and William Sargent of a series of charges including charges of possessing stolen documents which showed how the government continues to oppress Indians.

The trial itself was another in a series of broken government promises to the Indians. At the end of the BIA takeover, federal officials had agreed that no one would be prosecuted.

San Quentin Six jury bias

SAN RAPHAEL, Ca. -- 'The means used by the selectors of the grand jury (Marin County judges) did not assume a fair representation of Blacks, Latin Americans, the blue collar working class, and the young,' said visiting Judge Vernon Stoll of Nevada County, when he dropped all murder and conspiracy charges against the San Quentin Six January 18.

The Six, Johnny Spain, Luis Talamantez, Hugo Pinell, David Johnson, Willie Tate, and Fleeta Drumgo - militant black and brown prisoners - had been charged in connection with the alleged escape attempt of black revolutionary George Jackson from San Quentin August 21, 1971.

They maintain that the alleged escape, in which Jackson was killed, was actually a conspiracy carried out by prison officials to murder Jackson.

Southern clashes continue

NASHVILLE, Tennessee -- The battle between police and the black communities continues on a day-to-day basis in the South. In late December, a number of angry demonstrations by black residents of Nashville forced the city's police chief Hugh Mott, to resign. The demonstrations followed a series of police killings of young black youths in Nashville.

In Memphis, Tennessee, meanwhile, an all-white jury acquitted eight policemen and sheriffs deputies of first degree murder charges in connection with the slaying of a black youth named Elton Hayes.

Hayes died from head injuries received after a high-speed chase. The eight officers were among forty on the scene when Hayes was apprehended.

And in Atlanta, Georgia, two white policemen were arrested and released on their own recognizance after allegedly choking a young black man to death in the city jail.

Restaurant Real Colima
74 Porter Drive
Watsonville
724-0083
Authentic cooking from the state of Colima
Manuel Cahero V., owner

TEXACO
Miranda's Texaco
Brakes. Shocks. Tune-Ups
431 Abbott St.
Pismo 422-5123
Salinas, Calif. 93901

CASA MEXICO
Record Shop
The latest hits in 45's & LP's
Large selection of Mexican curios and cards for all occasions
newspapers, books, magazines
All in Spanish
PRO. - FELIX C. SANCHEZ 803 E. ALisal SALINAS, CALIF. 93901
Phone 758-3015

GONSALES BARBER SHOP
241 El Camino Real
Greenfield, Calif. 93927
Phone - 674-2481
Pro. - Cosme Gonsales

BINGO SUPER MARKET
GROCERIES
MEATS-BEEF
WINE AND SUNDRIES
945 MONTEREY ST.
SOLEDAD, CALIF.
PHONE 678-2689

RIVERA LIQUORS
RIVERA LIQUORS #1
406 East Copper Road
805-486-8738
RIVERA LIQUORS #2
3610 South Saviers Road
805-487-9517
EL RIO LIQUORS #3
2868 Vineyard Avenue
805-485-1617
OXNARD, CALIFORNIA 93030

La Flor Del Valle
100 Union St.
Watsonville, Cal.
Groceries
Mexican products
Newspapers and magazines in Spanish
Notary Public
Owner: Carlos F. Rico

LA RAZA BOOKSTORE
1228 F. Street
Phone: 446-5133
Sacramento, Ca. 95814
Viva La Causa
Mon.-Fri. 12 to 5
Saturday 11 to 3
Manager Philip Sanchez
Co. Manager Luis Gonzalez

La Cabaña Club
249 Main St.
Watsonville,
California
Owner: José Barceló

Pedro Sanchez Gas Station
Mechanic
66 Courtesy 66 Promptness 66
(408-722-6700)
175 Main St. 66 Watsonville, Ca

Editor seeking original stories and poems by Chicano writers in English or bilingual for anthology of Chicano literature. All royalties donated to United Farm Workers. Write: Dr. Dorothy E. Harth, Department of Modern Languages, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, New York 13215.

Liquors & Grocery Store
GUTIERREZ
* Beer and Tequila Imported From Mexico
* For Your Parties
* 6 AM - 2 PM
* (408) 724-8998
120 Main St. Watsonville, Ca

OVAL DRUG
919 N. Court St.
Visalia, Calif. 93277
Ph. 732-8696

RESTAURANTE TLATLEPAQUE & BAR
758 C. St. Oxnard, Calif. 93030
Comidas y Antojitos Mexicanos
Cervezas Mexicanas y del pais
horas: 10 am to 2 am diario
Estoy con La Causa
Boycott Gallo & Grapes
prop. Antonio Z. Rodriguez

PAUL'S BIG D.
895 Front St.
Soledad, Calif. 93930
SHELL GAS
DAIRY PRODUCTS
COLD BEER

LICORERIA TURF
100 EAST 5th STREET
OXNARD, CALIFORNIA 93030
Abierto Diario
6 A.M. - 2 A.M.

MEDINA'S EXXON
SPECIALIZING IN
BRAKES - SHOCKS & TUNE-UPS
431 Abbott St.
Phone 422-5123
Salinas, Ca. 93901
MEDINA'S GULF
SPECIALIZING IN
BRAKES - SHOCKS & TUNE-UPS
Hwy 101 So. Soledad, Calif.
Phone 678-2117
" Viva La Causa "

The President and the Truth

Richard M. Nixon has committed an impeachable offense by consistently deceiving the American people.

The President said on April 30, 1973:

"On March 21, I personally assumed the responsibility for coordinating intensive new inquiries into the (Watergate) matter, and I personally ordered those conducting them to report directly to me."

BUT, on August 7, former Assistant Attorney General Richard Kleindienst and Assistant Attorney General Henry Petersen denied before the Senate Watergate Committee receiving such orders.

The President said on April 30, 1973:

"I have given him (Attorney General-designate Elliot Richardson) absolute authority to make all decisions bearing upon the prosecution of the Watergate case and related matters."

He also said on May 22, 1973:

"With the selection of Archibald Cox . . . as special supervisory prosecutor for matters related to the case, Attorney General-designate Richardson has demonstrated his own determination to see that the truth is brought out. In this effort he has my full support."

BUT Cox was fired by President Nixon on October 20 for rejecting a "compromise" on the tapes which included an order that Cox "make no further attempt by the judicial process to obtain tapes, notes or memoranda of presidential conversations." Richardson refused to fire Cox and resigned.

The President said on May 22, 1973:

When he first learned on March 21 of the break-in at the office of Mr. Ellsberg's psychiatrist, "I specifically authorized the furnishing of this information to Judge Byrne," presiding over the Ellsberg trial.

BUT Petersen testified on August 7 that he raised the Ellsberg case burglary in mid-April with President Nixon who said, "I know about that. This is a national security matter. You stay out of that." Petersen and Kleindienst testified that President Nixon released the information only after both threatened to resign.

Then the President, on August 15, 1973, admitted:

He had first told Petersen to stay out of the Ellsberg burglary matter and said: "On April 25 Attorney General Kleindienst came to me and urged that the fact of the break-in should be disclosed to the (Ellsberg) court, despite the fact that since no evidence had been obtained, the law did not clearly require it. I concurred."

BUT on May 11, 1973, Judge Byrne dismissed all charges of espionage, theft and conspiracy in the Pentagon papers trial against Daniel Ellsberg because of government misconduct—evidence of the burglary and of other surveillance of Ellsberg.

The President said on May 22, 1973:

"Because approval (of a plan to establish a secret police force) was withdrawn before it had been implemented, the net result was that the plan for expanded intelligence activities never went into effect."

BUT on June 25, 1973, former White House Counsel John Dean told the Senate Watergate committee that two months after the secret plan for expanding domestic intelligence activities was approved, he was asked to get it started, and that he never saw any document showing a revocation of the plan.

AND on July 9, 1973, Tom Charles Huston, the former White House aide who drafted the secret police plan, told the House Armed Services Committee, under oath, that the plan was never formally canceled.

The President said late in April, 1973:

(According to testimony by Petersen before the Senate Watergate committee) that he (the President) had a crucial April 15 conversation with Dean "on tape."

BUT on October 31, the White House announced that the April 15 tape was missing. Then the White House said the tape never existed. Then the White House said there was a Dictabelt of the President's recollections of that conversation. Then the White House said that the Dictabelt did not exist.

The President said on November 17, 1973:

"I, of course, waived (executive) privilege with regard to turning over the tapes (to the courts), and so forth. Let me point out it was voluntary on my part . . ."

BUT the President turned over the tapes to the court 21 weeks after Federal District Judge John Sirica had ordered him to do so and after the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Sirica ruling and ordered the President to comply. And on November 26 he claimed executive privilege on three of the subpoenaed tapes.

The President said on November 17, 1973:

"Neither party was without fault. . . . They raised \$36 million (in the 1972 presidential campaign) and some of that, like some of ours, came from corporate sources and was illegal because the law had been changed, and apparently people didn't know it."

BUT, the Washington Post said on November 23: "Now the fact is that no corporations have admitted or have been charged with making illegal gifts to the McGovern campaign, while six have so far been convicted of making large unlawful donations to Mr. Nixon's reelection drive. Furthermore, the law barring such corporate gifts is hardly new; it was enacted in 1907."

The President said on November 17, 1973:

"I paid \$79,000 in income tax in 1969. In the next two years I paid nominal amounts. (The reported amounts of \$792 in 1970 and \$878 in 1971 on an annual salary of \$200,000 have never been denied by the White House.) Whether those amounts are correct or not, I do not know . . . Now, why did I pay this amount? It was not because of the deductions for,

Can We Believe Nixon?

It's a sad, sad day when Americans cannot believe their President. Not agree with him, but just believe him.

We have disagreed with Presidents in the past—and we have said so whenever we felt their policies were not in the interests of working people, or of the nation as a whole.

We have certainly disagreed with the policies of the Nixon Administration. Everybody knows what these disagreements are.

But these differences, serious as they are, have nothing to do with the central issue confronting the American people today.

The issue now is not presidential policy but presidential credibility.

This is the inescapable issue raised by the literally incredible events of recent weeks and months, which are summarized on this page.

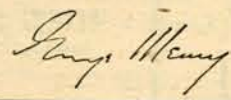
The President cannot meet this issue convincingly by launching "Operation Candor" or any other public relations gimmick. He can meet it only by telling the truth—the whole truth and nothing but the truth—now. Right now.

In the unreal setting of Disney World, on November 17—the 45th anniversary of Mickey Mouse—the President told the AP editors:

"People have got to know whether or not their President is a crook."

They also have a right to know whether their President is a liar.

Mr. Nixon's relentless resistance to full disclosure has left the people with only one avenue to the truth—the avenue urged on this page: impeachment.



shall we say, a cattle ranch or interest or all of these gimmicks . . . I turned them (his vice presidential papers) over (to the tax people). They appraised them at \$500,000 . . . So the tax people who prepared . . . the returns took that as a deduction."

BUT figures the White House has made public on the President's acquisitions of his Key Biscayne and San Clemente homes indicate he paid substantial sums in interest in 1970 and 1971. If he did not use "interest or all those gimmicks" as deductions and relied only on the deduction for his papers, his tax liability for the two-year period would have totaled some \$84,000 instead of the \$1,671 he reportedly paid. The amount he paid was the same tax imposed on a worker with a wife and two children earning about \$9,000 a year.

FURTHER, an exhaustive study by Tax Analysts and Advocates, a long-established, reputable, nonprofit organization that analyzes complex legal issues, has concluded the President is not entitled to the deduction because he did not complete his gift of the papers before July 25, 1969, the cutoff date set by the Tax Reform Act of 1969. There is no deed signed by the President. There is no document showing acceptance of the gift by the government.

The President said on November 17, 1973:

"Lyndon Johnson came in to see me shortly after I

became President, and he told me that he had given his presidential papers, or at least most of them, to the government, and he told me that under the law, up until 1969, presidential or vice presidential papers given to the government . . . could be taken as a deduction from the tax. And he said: 'You, Mr. President, ought to do the same thing . . . You have got your vice presidential papers.' . . . I can only say we did what we were told was the right thing to do and, of course, what President Johnson had done before . . ."

BUT in 1969, former President Johnson made a careful decision not to take a deduction on his papers because in that year Congress was debating the cutoff law. He decided it would be unseemly for a former President to attempt to make such a gift to beat a congressional deadline. The President, however, did just that.

The President said on November 17, 1973:

" . . . I have referred to what I call the Jefferson rule (defending executive privilege as an answer to a subpoena) . . . Jefferson . . . had correspondence which it was felt might bear upon the guilt or innocence of Aaron Burr (in his treason trial). Chief Justice Marshall, sitting as a trial judge, said that Jefferson, as President, had to turn over the correspondence. Jefferson refused. What he did was to turn over a summary of the correspondence, all that he considered was proper to be turned over for the purposes of the trial. Then Marshall, sitting as Chief Justice, ruled for the President."

BUT, Jefferson sent the subpoenaed documents to the U.S. attorney in Richmond, who authorized the court to use those portions relating to the case. Marshall did not rule as Chief Justice on the case in which he had been the trial judge. It never went to the Supreme Court.

The President said on August 22, 1973:

"I met at great length with Mr. Ehrlichman, Mr. Haldeman, Mr. Dean, Mr. Mitchell on (March) 22d. I discussed the whole matter with them. I kept pressing for the view that I had had throughout, that we must get this story out, get the truth out, whatever and whoever it's going to hurt . . ."

BUT, on July 11, 1973, Mitchell testified before the the Senate Watergate Committee that the President never asked him about Watergate at any time.

The President said (according to Republican congressmen) on November 13 and 14, 1973:

That Richardson had fully agreed to the compromise plan in the tapes dispute which would have ordered Cox to take no further judicial actions to get evidence from the White House.

BUT, on November 6, in testimony under oath before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Richardson said he never approved limitations on Cox.

The President said (according to Republican congressmen) on November 13 and 14, 1973:

That Richardson "did not tell the truth" to the Senate Judiciary Committee and that Richardson had a "faulty recall."

BUT, on November 27 in an interview, Richardson revealed additional documents supporting his sworn testimony and quoted Presidential Assistant Alexander Haig, a former general, in a phone call after the meeting with Republican congressmen, as saying: "I don't disagree with anything you said in your testimony."

The President told Republican governors on November 20:

"If there are any more bombs, I'm not aware of them."

BUT, on November 21, White House lawyers told Judge Sirica that there was an 18-minute "gap" in one tape, and that President Nixon personally had known that since October 1, Governor Dan Evans of Washington said: "He just didn't square with us, level with us."

According to Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, which governs House procedure:

"Impeachment may be based on offenses of a political character, on gross betrayal of public interests, inexcusable neglect of duty, tyrannical abuse of power and offenses of conduct tending to bring the office into disrepute."

Richard M. Nixon has committed an impeachable offense by consistently lying to the American people, by suppressing the facts of the Watergate case, by refusing the cooperation and participation he has repeatedly pledged and, by these actions, obstructing justice.

Therefore, Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, should be impeached—now.



Siqueiros dies at 77

A People's artist for 50 years

MEXICO CITY, Mexico -- David Alfaro Siqueiros, who fought for the rights of working men and women and painted revolutionary murals depicting their struggles over a span of more than 50 years, died of cancer in Cuernavaca January 6. He was 77.

A telegram sent to Siqueiros' widow from United Farm Workers of America President Cesar Chavez expressed the impact of the artist's life and work:

'In the name of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, I wish to express our deep sorrow for the loss of your illustrious husband, David Alfaro Siqueiros, (R.I.P.).

'His memory will remain imperishable in his realist and human works of art, his murals that reflect his profound understanding of the struggle of the dispossessed.'

Along with muralists Diego Rivera and Jose Clemente Orozco, Siqueiros turned art into a powerful weapon for liberation during the years following the 1917 Mexican Revolution. Known as the Grand Three, they exclaimed to the world in brilliant colors the plight of Mexican peasants and workers, the greed of the ruling class, and the justice of the struggle for human dignity.

Painted not for the private collections of the rich, but for all people to see, these murals

can be seen today on university walls, government buildings, hotel lobbies and along public sidewalks.

Siqueiros' uncompromising political beliefs and his membership in the Mexican Communist Party took him to the ranks of the Mexican Revolution and the Spanish Civil War, and caused him to be twice jailed and twice exiled for his participation in worker and student social movements.

But on his death the great muralist was given the highest tribute by the Mexican government and his body was laid in state at the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City before his burial.

Farm worker alert State disability benefits pregnancy

For the first time in history, a farm worker who is pregnant can apply for California Disability Insurance benefits. Benefits may be paid if a doctor certifies that the pregnancy involved abnormal complications or disabling conditions. The effective date of this new benefit is January 1, 1974. Such benefits are payable for up to 26 weeks.

Some of the complications of pregnancy covered are Caesarian sections, childbirth fever, and

extrauterine pregnancies.

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to rule on the constitutionality of the California law that denies disability to all pregnant women and new mothers who cannot work. The high court's ruling is expected by next June.

Under California law a worker pays 1% of his wages for disability coverage. When he suffers illness or injury, the covered employee receives basic benefits

extra-uterine pregnancies.

ranging from \$25 to \$105 a week, depending on earnings, for up to 26 weeks. Hospitalization, if necessary, brings extra benefits.

For further information and help in filing claims, go to your nearest Campesino Center. There is no charge for this service. Centers are located in Selma, Lamont, Delano, Coahuella, Calexico, Oxnard, Santa Maria and Stockton, California and in San Luis, Arizona.

EL MALCRIADO

Published every two weeks as the Official voice of the

UNITED FARM WORKERS
AFL-CIO

La Paz, P.O. Box 62
Keene, California 93531

Bulk order of 50 prepaid only \$5.00
Please specify
Spanish or English edition

Institutional subscriptions
\$20. a year

Send us News
of your boycott

To

EL MALCRIADO

P. Box # 62

Keene, Ca. 93531

INVENTORY SALE!

For
EL MARCRIADO
readers only!

We have moved our shop to a new location at La Paz and have less space for storage. We MUST reduce our present stock to make room for new items on the way!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFER TO EL MALCRIADO READERS. CLIP COUPONS BELOW AND MAIL FOR LOW, LOW PRICES!!! UP TO 50% OFF!!!

LIMITED TIME ONLY -- SEND YOUR ORDER IN TODAY!!!

Discount Coupon for BUTTONS

Regular price--35¢
NOW -25¢ or 5/\$1

- #BU-A BOYCOTT NON-UNION LETTUCE
- #BU-F SUPPORT FARM WORKERS
- #BU-G NIXON EATS LETTUCE
- #BU-K NON-VIOLENT ACTION
- #BU-L CHAVEZ SI TEAMSTERS TEAMSTERS NO!
- #BU-N NON VIOLENCE IS OUR STRENGTH

Discount Coupon for BUMPER STICKERS

Regular price--25¢
NOW -17¢ 10/\$1.50

- #BOS BOYCOTT SAFEWAY
- #BOL BOYCOTT LETTUCE
- #NEL NIXON EATS LETTUCE
- #CHS CHAVEZ SI TEAMSTERS NO!

Discount Coupon

POSTERS

Regular price-\$1.50
NOW 89¢ 10/\$7.50

- #HUP HUELGA! Dramatic drawing in black, red and white by Zermano, Depicts anger and frustration of farm workers.
- #HUGO Famous quote of Hugo: 'Nothing can withstand the force of an idea whose time has come.'

Quantity	Item #	Discount price with Coupon		Total
		Per item	Bulk price	
	#BU-A	25¢	5/\$1.00	
	#BU-F	25¢	5/\$1.00	
	#BU-G	25¢	5/\$1.00	
	#BU-K	25¢	5/\$1.00	
	#BU-L	25¢	5/\$1.00	
	#BU-M	25¢	5/\$1.00	
	#BOS	17¢	10/\$1.50	
	#BOL	17¢	10/\$1.50	
	#NEL	17¢	10/\$1.50	
	#CHS	17¢	10/\$1.50	
	#HUP	89¢	10/\$7.50	
	#HUGO	89¢	10/\$7.50	

PLEASE INCLUDE
DISCOUNT COUPONS
AND YOUR CHECK OR
MONEY ORDER
MADE OUT TO:

SUBTOTAL
ADD 10% for
shipping
TOTAL

EL TALLER GRAFICO

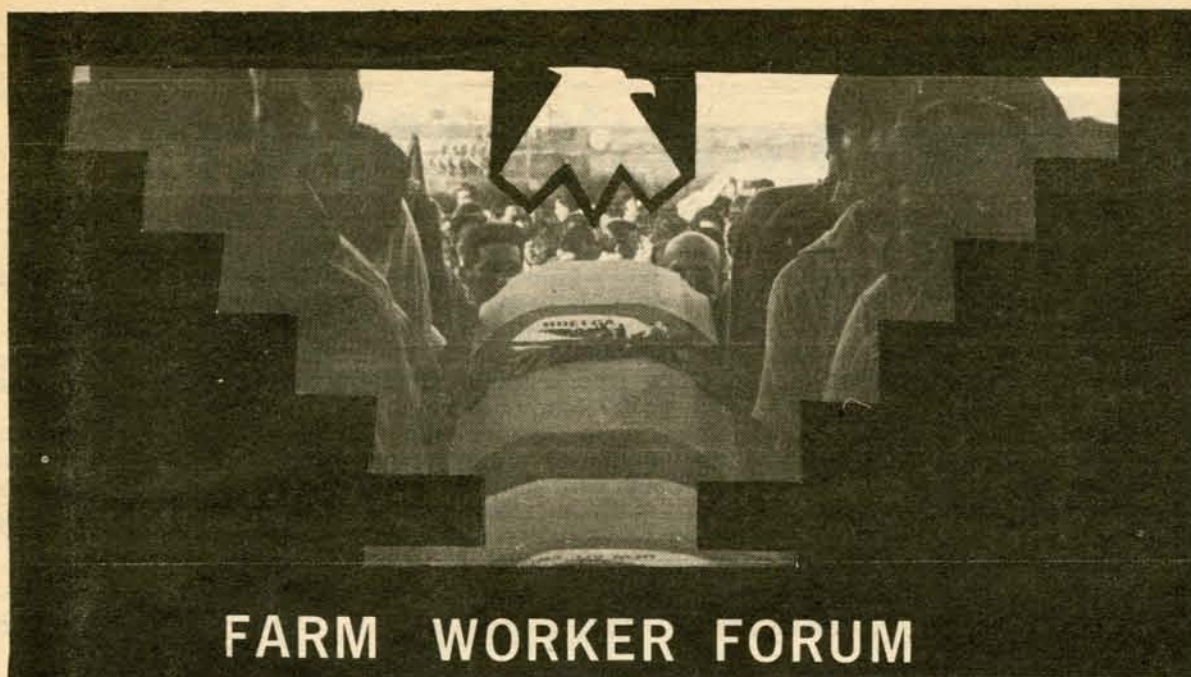
NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EL TALLER GRAFICO • P.O. BOX 62
KEENE, CA. • 93531

EL TALLER GRAFICO



Supports British dockers

Dear Sirs:

I recently viewed on television a documentary about Mr. Chavez and your struggle for a fair wage and decent conditions of work. I was filled with great admiration for you all and a terrible anger at the men who would seek to exploit their fellow men, as they seek to exploit you.

I was happy to learn that our own Transport and General Workers Union, ... (has) ... 'blocked' California grapes and as far as 'Safeway' is concerned, I for one would starve before entering one of their shops.

May God bless you all - be strong!

Yours faithfully,

F. A. Floyd
London, England

'Boycotters are our defenders'

Sisters and Brothers:

I send you my warmest greetings all the way from Coachella,

California, especially to my friends that I left in Detroit. There will always be a place in my heart for you.

The holy Gospels command us to hear the voice in the desert that comes to save souls. But we should also hear the voice of the Union, the United Farm Workers of America, which will bring about the betterment of our situation and give our rights more importance.

Dear sisters and brothers, I ask you to continue supporting La Causa, which is your cause too.

Our boycotter sisters and brothers who find themselves in distant lands along with their children, are committed with their whole hearts to suffer for the good of the farm worker. The boycotters are our defenders.

In their daily work they are exposed to the terrible cold, to dangerous traffic in the large cities, as well as humiliations, blasphemies, and insults on the part of anti-UFW customers and store managers.

All this they suffer for us. But thanks to God, we believe in non-violence. Our boycotters don't respond to these attacks with violence.

They think of the final victory of La Causa. So that is why they ask your help. Don't buy where

there are boycott picket lines. Don't, with you money, give arms to our enemies, who are yours also.

Our boycotter sisters and brothers are like doves crossing the ocean looking for food to eat. They went from one coast to the other looking for justice and a better life for farm workers.

Onward boycotters! You are not alone! Here in California we are also boycotting.

Viva el boicoteo!
Viva la Causa!
Viva la Huelga!
Viva Cesar Chavez!
Si, se puede!

Your brother,
Francisco Gonzalez
Coachella, California

'Much inspiration'

Sisters and brothers:

May peace and justice prevail throughout the new year. I spoke out at the bishops' meeting in favor of the boycott. Much inspiration came from my visits with

UFW organizers and my visits to migrant labor camps in Virginia. God's blessings to all of you and on your work.

Bishop Walter Sullivan
Richmond, Virginia

Repudiates Teamsters

For personal reasons I had to work under the Teamsters last summer and now they send me this membership booklet. But I don't want it because I don't want that union. I would appreciate it if you were to return this book to its local.

I could do it but I want you to demonstrate to them (Teamsters) that the only union farm workers want is the UFW.

As a last favor, please let me know what happens.

Sincerely yours,
Salvador C. Maldonado
Bakersfield, California

(This letter, along with the Teamster membership booklet, was sent to us by the Salinas Field Office. --El Malcriado)

'Never admit failure'

Another day has arrived for the poor struggling people who are trying to better themselves.

We wake up to this beautiful day, a hope in our hearts and a smile on our face; hoping and praying that this will be the one where we truly will find better results and achievements than the day before.

We move out to the picket line which has been assigned to us, not to find results and achievements, but to find a line full of 'injustice'.

A scuffle has broken out somewhere in the crowd, a young man leaps to a nearby cartop with a loud cry; we do not want hatred and violence here. We do not wish to fight each other.

My people are simply tired of this senseless, saddening disruption by so-called Justice (police). We have journeyed through the world of constant neglect. We have worked our land with our blood, sweat and tears. We have reached a series of nameless breaking points.

Human beings, just like you and me, are sensitive and quite willing to go all out for the better things in life. Apparently viewed from the other side this young man has added fuel to the fire.

Soon there is a call for (law) enforcement. Yes. Enforce the already below knee-level laws.

Yet there's something inside of us that tells us that we must go on fighting for the Cause! Never admit failure until you have succeeded. 'Sock it to 'em'.

Que Viva la Causa,

Freddie Tabarez
Piru, California

Boycott Guild wine!

Dear Editor:

The boycott of Guild liquor is growing more effective in Minnesota. We have 180 liquor stores clean. It is 20 BELOW zero here, but 40 people joined us on a pre-holiday picket line which even included a pro-UFW Santa Claus.

Viva la Huelga,

The Minnesota Boycott

Greetings from Norfolk boycott

Sisters and brothers:

All of us from the Center for United Labor Action wish you all struggling workers a year of victory.

Boycott activities have been extended somewhat here to Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. The friends of the Farm Workers' group is also growing.

Saturday, December 14th there was a rally in Durham, North Carolina for the UFW. The Herrera Family and several of us from Norfolk and Portsmouth went. About 80 people attended the rally and march through Durham.

There is picketing and leaf-letting at 3 A & P's in Norfolk each week, plus a lot of meetings, film showings etc. The Herreras are very strong fighters.

The miners' success in Mississippi and the UFW success in Detroit recently, encourage us in our struggle to make Norfolk the next city free of scab lettuce and grapes.

Until victory,
Dianne and Tom
Norfolk, Va.

EL MALCRIADO **Official Voice of the United Farm Workers**

(Use this order form only if there is no EL MALCRIADO Committee in your community.)

EL MALCRIADO is published every three weeks. Send this form with your order as soon as possible so that you'll receive your newspapers on time.

I want to help distribute EL MALCRIADO. Send me:

_____ bundle (s) of 50 issues in English.

_____ bundle (s) of 50 issues in Spanish.

_____ bundle (s) of 50 issues with _____ issues in English and _____ issues in Spanish. (\$ 5.00 a bundle PRE-PAID)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ Zip _____

With my order, I am enclosing a check or money order for \$ _____

Send your order to: **EL MALCRIADO P.O. BOX 62 Keene, Ca. 93531**

'It keeps happening every day'

by Rev. Wayne "Chris" Hartmire
(Hartmire is director of the
National Farm Worker Ministry
--El Malcriado)

Standing in parking lots talking to people is what boycotters do all the time. It is hard work! You talk to a lot of different people in a day's time. Some are afraid to talk. Some seem not to care about anything.

A whole lot are sympathetic but unwilling to do what is needed. A few are just mean. But a boycott lives on the spirit of those beautiful men and women who care about farm workers and who agree to turn away from the store.

In early December I was in Cleveland with members of the National Farm Worker Ministry Board. We went out to Fisher-Fazzio Stores to help with the boycott. I talked to a whole string of those "sympathetic-but-not-quite" folks. I was feeling the weight of time and of other people's apathy and the world was beginning to look like a place where justice might never find a home.

But like every boycott worth his salt, I kept talking to people: "Ma'am would you please help farm workers by not shopping at Fisher - Fazzio today?"

Woman: "I sure would but today I have to shop here." (She was Black, on welfare, and tired.)

Boycotter: "Do you have to shop here; it would definitely help the farm workers' cause if you'd go a short two miles to that other store."

Woman: "But, mister, I only have \$25.00 for a whole week's food for 7 of us and that other store is too expensive." She paused for a moment and then said, "Now that I see you folks

here I sure hate going in that store."

Boycotter: "And I hate asking you and I guess I wouldn't except I know what it is like for farm workers and I know that they can't win unless every one of us does something to help."

She stood by her car for a couple of minutes looking at the store and watching the other leafleters and then she gave me a tired smile and said: "Okay mister, I will go to that other store." And with that she climbed into her old car and drove out of the parking lot.

I didn't talk to anyone else for a few minutes. I stood in that parking lot with tears on my cheeks and my heart aching with love for that beautiful woman and for all humankind. What she gave me was so precious that it can't be measured. From her own spirit she gave to my spirit and out of that gift of herself came more strength and more stamina and more hope. There was no way that anyone could get me down the rest of the day!

It keeps happening every day: a word in the right place, a turnaway, a strikebreaker who decides to leave the fields, a song for a poem, a few hours on the picket line, - in a million different ways we feed each others' spirits and keep alive the struggle for justice.

It is not an accident. People decide to do things that give strength to other people and to the movement. And all the sacrifices and the deeds and the specific forms of caring come together like rivulets into a mighty stream that will in time bring a new day of justice and hope for farm workers. Si, se puede!

force in order to attain those ends."

How many employers would sign Union contracts if Unions could not strike or boycott?

From California Farmer:

"In this issue we are dedicating some space to the third alternative. The first two choices are: Either join the AFL-CIO Chavez union or the Teamsters union. The third choice is: Join no union.

"Some of the suggestions for working towards a no-union situation may sound very expensive, and they are, but you remain the boss of the ranch, and you don't have union officials telling you that you cannot use mechanical grape pickers, as one example."

An article titled 'New Year May Signal Labor Crisis' states: 'As bad as things were in California this past year, it seems the real year or years of crisis lie ahead for the agricultural community. It simply is not realistic to expect the United Farmworkers (sic) of America (AFL-CIO) and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to allow the relative peace which existed in early November to continue indefinitely.



Photo: Sebastian

Togetherness gets the job done

Another year has gone by and when one reads the newspapers and watches TV or listens to the radio, all he hears or reads about only suggests that things are getting harder and tougher for the working people to survive.

We have the wages frozen by the Nixon administration, yet he lets food prices keep going higher and higher. The energy crisis makes gasoline prices soar up so high that poor people can hardly afford to buy at all.

Above all, living costs are sky high but this administration is not doing much to ease this horrible situation confronting us.

But in spite of all these inconveniences confronting us, several groups of hard working people, about seventy of them, from Santa Barbara, Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco, came to Delano to donate their labors to Agbayani Village. December 29 will for a long time be remembered as one of the Village's brightest get-to-

gethers.

The KDP (Katiponan Democratic Pilipinos) and the Third World Women's Alliance, groups composed of Pilipinos, Chicanos, Chinese, Blacks, Japanese, and Anglos, dug holes for trees in landscaping, dug trenches for gas pipes, and laid tiles on the roof.

The sheet metal workers from Santa Barbara worked on the heating and cooling system and Lervis Suzuki and wife and son from Berkeley made a walk-in icebox for the Village.

And after a day's well-done job we all had dinner together at the Schenley camp.

The evening in the camp was as joyful as could be. There was dancing and singing songs led by a beautiful girl, Melinda Paras, who played guitar. A short talk by Sheryl Johnson pointed out that 'coming here in the spirit of togetherness is a big education because by working together lots can be done.'

Emilio Galacoa talked about the Project Manongs in Oakland, asking for volunteers to go and help them too. Alfredo Vasquez also talked about El Malcriado, Voice of the Farm Worker, and was able to sell several copies. 'Decision in Delano' and 'Salt of the Earth' are moving pictures shown by Chris Braga. In summary it was a great and beautiful evening.

The entire staff of the Agbayani Village are very grateful to all these beautiful people and to all those who have come to help us in making the dream home of retired farm workers come true.

We are hoping and wishing that 1974 will be a year of peace, justice, and dignity to all farm workers and to all hard-working people and may the strong tie of brotherly love bind us and all mankind always together.

by Sebastian Sahagun



From the Packer:

Rep. B.F. Sirsk has a curious view of how Unions operate. Sirsk supports the right of collective bargaining for any type of labor--farm workers to auto workers. But, 'I don't believe in using economic pressure and

In November, the UFW legal staff took the deposition of Mike Bozick, general manager of the Richard Bagdasarian Corporation, which is the biggest scab ranch in the Coachella Valley.

UFW lawyers Sandy Nathan and Barry Winograd questioned Bozick for four hours. While under oath, Bozick came forth with the following conspiracy theory. He was asked who he thought was responsible for the strike last spring:

Bozick: Cesar Chavez, the Catholic Church, and the AFL-CIO.
Nathan: Those are the members of the conspiracy?

Bozick: Yes.

Nathan: How was it they conspired?

Bozick: All three of them got together to raise hell with our vineyards.

Winograd: Were there any other organizations or significant individuals.

Bozick: The United Auto Workers. I don't know if they Quakers were there or not, the news media, the Quaker Church.

Winograd: Radio, TV, and newspapers?

Bozick: Everything, right.

Winograd: Is there any way, Mr. Bozick, that you can make an estimate of the relative share

carried by each of these agents in the conspiracy that you have alleged was committed against you? Do you have any estimate of the relative shares?
Bozick: What do you want, my opinion? Cesar Chavez and the Catholic Church have 95%.
Winograd: Is there any se-

paration that you can make between Cesar Chavez and the Catholic Church?

Bozick: Absolutely right down the middle.

Winograd: The remaining five percent?

Bozick: Belonging to the rest of them.

First Union Dogs !

Big beautiful German Shepherd pups 5 months old sired by one of Cesar's own dogs.
Show quality, top temperament only 4 bitches, and 1 male left \$ 100.00 & up.

Stud Service - 805-822-5571
or write : Puppies, La Paz
Keene, Ca. 93531

NO MORE DEATH-TRIPS!

The crash of the labor contractor bus in which 19 farm workers drowned in a 'prison of seats' was a massacre, not an accident. The overturning of two windowless vans within a month in Florida in which one Jamaican sugar canecutter was killed and 125 others injured was not an accident.

The tragedies are the results of a brutal agricultural system in which growers treat workers like agricultural implements to be used, abused and discarded at will.

We condemn the growers for trying to wash the blood off their hands by passing the blame for the bus massacre to the labor contractors they created.

We demand the growers sign Union contracts that guarantee safety on the roads as well as in the field.

We condemn the labor contractors for putting the lives of our people in jeopardy each day in their wheeled coffins to provide growers with cheap labor.

We demand the outlawing of the labor contractors.

We condemn the Teamsters for conspiring with the growers and labor contractors to destroy our Union, our only hope for an end to the death trips.

We demand the Teamster get out of the fields. Their indifference and inaction during this time of mourning and crisis is the ultimate proof of their cynical and callous attitude toward our rights, health and safety.

We condemn the California Highway Patrol officials for their misleading report, which tries to pin the blame on the driver, instead of focusing on the real cause of the deaths: the bus seats that were so easily torn from the floor to trap our sisters and brothers under three feet of water.

We demand the California Highway Patrol provide us with equal protection in vehicle safety standards and conduct an emergency program of safety inspections for all farm labor buses.

The history of our Union shows us our demands will not be met without strong Union contracts. To win contracts, we must strike and boycott. Only then will there be no more death trips.



'The most important thing is to educate people why they must not buy lettuce and not buy grapes and not buy scab wine. This is the principal force that the Union has, because for us it is much harder to hold and win a strike, because we are poor.

90% of the people here are aware that we need the Union. But the same poverty forces us to put up with conditions that we don't want. Sure we know that it is unjust that a contractor takes you with him for \$16 and you have to spend 18 hours with him. But what are we going to do back at home if we don't take home any money that day? And how can it be just that a woman leaves her children at two in the morning and comes back when it is dark -- for \$16 in pay?

For me, the most important thing is that it is much less sacrifice for people not to eat these three things than it is for a farm worker family not to eat anything.'

--Angel Quintero, Calexico