

The official voice of the United Farmworkers

# EL MALCRIADO



© 1973 EL MALCRIADO

Donation 10¢



10

ENGLISH  
EDITION

Vol. VII No. 3

## NO MORE TEAMSTER DUES!



### IN THIS EDITION:

FARM WORKERS RESIST TEAMSTER PESTS, p. 2-3  
12 FARM WORKERS DIE IN ANOTHER MASSACRE, p. 4  
ORGANIZING THE 'PARO', p. 5  
EASY TAX MONEY FOR THE GROWERS, p. 6  
WHO PICKED THE TEAMSTERS? p. 7  
'TEAMSTERS ARE BANDITS', p. 8-9

THE GROWERS' PRIVATE ARMY, p. 10  
ASPARAGUS GROWER SPEAKS HIS MIND, p. 11  
'WITH LA CAUSA ALL THE WAY!' p. 12  
TIDBITS, p. 13  
'DON'T PAY TEAMSTER DUES,' SAYS CHAVEZ, p. 16



## Farm workers resist Teamster extortion

# 'WE CAN STOP THEM AT

CALEXICO, Ca.—Black eagle flags flew over empty fields in the Imperial Valley late February as thousands of farm workers held a one-day "paro" (work stoppage) and a week-long asparagus strike in a new major thrust against the Teamsters' Union contracts held by the vegetable growers of the area.

An estimated 8000 workers refused to work February 18 in response to a call by the United Farm Workers of America.

After the paro, nearly a thousand asparagus workers struck with picket lines at labor con-

tractors. "Right now news of the paro is spreading across the nation, for it is something that causes admiration.

"People say, 'How can it be possible that workers who already have a contract are out on strike?' And the answer is...because these contracts are not valid contracts, and exist only because of the conspiring between the growers and their puppets."

Most of the lettuce and vegetable growers in the Imperial Valley signed contracts with the Teamsters on July 26, 1970, in what the California Supreme

**When they [the growers] want us to stop working, they do it. They don't care about our needs, but only their production. And now we want to show them that farm workers are united and that we can stop them at any hour we please."—Ricardo Villapando**

tractor buses at the fields, demanding higher wages to fight inflation as well as free elections to determine which union would represent them.

"This is the beginning of a whole series of strikes," said UFW president Cesar Chavez, "that will be taking place until such time as the growers and the Teamsters make up their minds that the workers are going to be represented by their own union."

### 'We can stop them'

On the day of the paro, the fields were empty, the contractor buses parked silently in Calexico, the packing sheds quiet. Agribusiness in the Imperial Valley came to a halt.

"When they (the growers) want us to stop working, they do it," UFW organizer Ricardo Villalpando told another farm worker. "They don't care about our needs, but only their pro-

duction. And now we want to show them that farm workers are united and that we can stop them at any hour we please."

### 'Join us!'

Weeks before the paro, workers' committees organized by the UFW visited labor contractor buses every morning to talk with workers about their problems with the Teamsters and the cost of living.

Since 90% of the workers who work in the Valley cross over daily from Mexico, the paro began at 2 o'clock in the morning with a picket line at the border.

Under the bright fluorescent lights of the Immigration Service Building, huelgistas with red flags, leaflets, and copies of El Malcriado shouted, "Join us, don't work today!", and, "Take our flag for the good of our

**"How can it be possible that they pay us the same \$1.30 a box as they did six years ago? In the first two months of this year alone everything in the stores has become so expensive! Six years... do you know what six years means?"—Blas Rubio**

families! Down with the Teamsters!"

Every time a farm worker joined the picket line, a cheer went up.

"I just got here from Tijuana," Elpidio Ponce told picketers as he joined the line, "where I go every eight days to see my family. So it caught me by surprise to see that it's time to take up La Causa again."

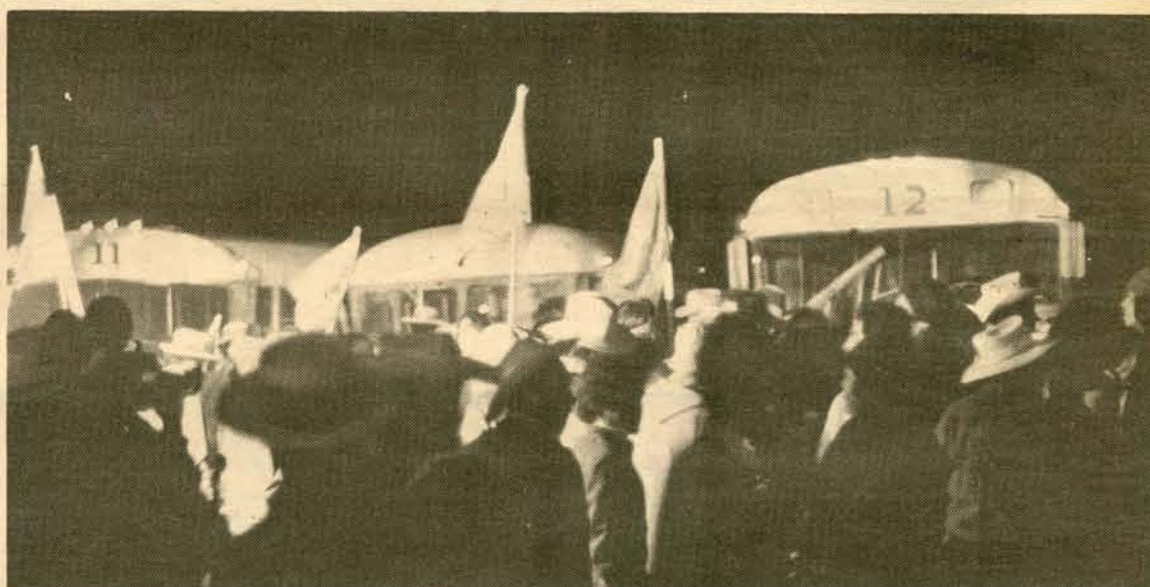
"I don't have a penny, nothing, but I don't care, I can survive for a couple of days or so, somehow. You see, I came ready to work with my asparagus knife and all,

families! Down with the Teamsters!"

Every time a farm worker joined the picket line, a cheer went up.

"I just got here from Tijuana," Elpidio Ponce told picketers as he joined the line, "where I go every eight days to see my family. So it caught me by surprise to see that it's time to take up La Causa again."

"I don't have a penny, nothing, but I don't care, I can survive for a couple of days or so, somehow. You see, I came ready to work with my asparagus knife and all,



**"Stop the Buses!"**—Strikers picket the 12 buses of labor contractor Constantino "Penguin" Martinez. By the third day of the asparagus strike, Martinez stopped bringing his buses to Calexico.



UFW members Pedro Carmona (left) and Magdalena Reyes (center) help launch "El Paro General" by distributing leaflets at the border at 3:00 a.m. February 18.

and I'll have to go back without money this time, but that's OK."

"The family? They're getting by, begging, well for beans and tortillas because the kids are in school. But the paro is a great opportunity because the companies can't stand to lose so much money for long."

"I'll stay here with this flag, talking to all the companeros to make them see that we all have to join together."

### Hit Teamster abuses

Picketers told the workers that this was the day to protest the Teamster robbery of their money, and that formal declarations against Teamster abuses could be given at the UFW hiring hall.

More than a thousand farm workers who now work under Teamster contracts went to the hiring hall beginning at 2:30 a.m. to sign cards authorizing the UFW to represent them.

Many stayed to give detailed sworn statements about their problems with the Teamsters to the Union's legal staff. They were assisted in this task by Staff members from the Service Cen-



The asparagus strike leaves Abatti's asparagus fields empty.



# ANY HOUR WE PLEASE'

ter, the Calxico Clinic and many volunteers.

In these statements (see pages 8-9), they accused the Teamsters of such abuses as:

- deducting dues from workers' paychecks without permission
- forcing workers to sign Teamster cards with threats of losing their jobs
- tricking workers into signing the cards by saying they were for some other purpose.
- refusing to hold membership meetings or give out any copies of the contracts the Teamsters signed with the growers
- refusing to pay medical benefits that were promised
- giving workers the run-around on their grievances against the growers

hadn't planned on working that day for a long time. Others claimed it was a holiday provided for in the Teamsters contracts, for George Washington's birthday.

"If so, it's the first time in the history of agriculture that Washington's birthday is a holiday," said UFW organizer Manuel Chavez. "Last year they didn't even see fit to make Jesus Christ's birthday a holiday!"

The Teamster contract for the Imperial Valley does not list Washington's birthday as a holiday. A Teamster spokesman in Salinas said he didn't think most of the people participating in the paro were farm workers. In early March it was reported in Calxico that the Teamsters were planning to ask growers for permission to try a work stoppage in the area for publicity purposes.

A spokesman for the Bruce Church company, one of the

**"Probably the growers will offer you a much better wage to work for them now, but we ask you class brothers and sisters not to go. For as all farm workers know, they use their system to their advantage—paying higher wages when they are forced to do so and afterwards exploiting us again whenever they please."**  
—UFW leaflet

## Picket the fields

At the hiring hall picket lines were organized from among the workers who joined the paro to fan out to the contractor buses in Calxico and talk with workers not reached by the picket line at the border. Most of the buses carrying any workers were soon empty.

At daybreak the picket lines moved to lettuce and asparagus fields in the Valley, where entire crews of 20 or 30 workers left the fields to join the paro.

17 workers were arrested in a field belonging to grower Ben Abatti as they left after convincing a lettuce crew to join the paro. They were jailed for three

largest in the Valley, claimed his company had enough workers. "They can kiss our ass," he said, "and all go back to Mexico where they came from, for all we care," he said. "There's enough welfare people around we can drag off to work if we have to. That's all, I'm busy."

## 'Pay no more Teamster dues!'

The day of the paro closed with a rally in the Calxico city park where Cesar Chavez addressed over 500 workers. He attacked the refusal of the growers to raise wages for farm workers in recent years as prices have soared.

"We are poorer in 1974 than we were in 1973," he said. "Think about this every time you

**"The man on the bullhorn said, 'Why work so hard to make the contractor fat and rich? When he is an old man, the contractor will be rich and fat and you will be dead because you are being pushed so hard.'" -- Pascual Amador**

days because the Imperial Valley sheriff's department delayed in filing its reports.

They were finally arraigned on Wednesday in a courtroom full of strikers and released on lowered bail on their own promise to return for trial.

## A holiday?

A number of growers and contractors didn't even try to send out their buses for workers during the paro. Some said they

pay Teamster dues. Those same dues are being used against you. We cannot win or move ahead until all of you, beginning tomorrow say with one voice, we'll pay no more dues and if they force us to pay dues it's better to go on strike!"

Chavez closed by calling for a meeting of asparagus workers the next morning at 5 o'clock. "If the asparagus stalks are high today," he said, "by tomorrow they're going to be like trees."

## Huelga!! Strike!!

The next morning 350 asparagus workers jammed the hiring hall and with a hand vote declared a strike. Since asparagus has to be harvested within a very short period of time after it-ripens, they expected to inflict heavy losses on the growers.

Immediately after the vote the workers went to the buses of the labor contractor who work with the asparagus growers, emptying them one at a time and then convincing the drivers to take the buses out of town.

At dawn the picket lines moved to the fields where more workers left the fields in large and small groups.

Two days later, Don Currier ("El Don") was the only contractor breaking the strike, as the others were unable to get asparagus workers and even stopped bringing their buses in the morning.

## Demand pay raise

The workers demanded an increase in pay to \$2.00 a box of asparagus for piece-rate or \$3.00 an hour. "How can it be possible that they pay us the same \$1.30 a box as they did six years ago?" asked farm worker Blas Rubio.

"In the first two months of this year alone everything in the stores has become so expensive! Six years... do you know what six years means?"

Leading asparagus grower

John Jackson told El Malcriado that the asparagus ranchers of the Valley met the night before the strike began and agreed to raise wages by ten cents a box, to \$1.40. He said they had planned to do this for a long time.

"We've worked out, responsible wage negotiations," he said, "which will allow for the cost of living increase they are talking about. I don't think they understand this, though."

Although Jackson said the current wage was \$1.40 a box, scabs in the Jackson and Abatto fields (some brought in from Arizona) told El Malcriado they were being paid from \$1.60 to \$1.80 a box.

"Probably the growers will offer you a much better wage to work for them now," a UFW strike leaflet warned, "but we ask you class brothers and sisters do not go. 'For as all farm workers know, they use their system to their advantage—paying higher wages when they are forced to do so and afterwards exploiting us again whenever they please.'"

## Machine threat

On the first day of the strike Jackson told reporters he would have to bring in machines to cut the asparagus. "We prefer hand labor," he said, "because the quality is better for the market, but we'll use the machines if we have to."

Three days later he repeated the same statement, adding that

the asparagus would have to be ploughed under if it wasn't picked. "Either they work now or they never work", he said, "and I don't want it to be an ultimatum, but as a manager I have no choice."

Few machines ever appeared in the fields.

## Grower injunction

On February 20, the third day of the strike, four growers obtained a temporary court order severely limiting picketing at the fields and bus pick-up points. In their suit to obtain the order they charged that the picketing "intimidated" their workers but failed to cite any specific instances. They said they were each losing \$50,000 a day.

Speaking for himself as well as his fellow workers, Juan Alavardo and Benjamin Murrieta, Pascual Amador said they had left the fields belonging to Jackson because "the picketers told us it was for the good of everyone."

"We didn't want to break the picket line. We are not members of the UFW but we believe their efforts are good."

"There were no threats made and we weren't afraid of the people along the side of the road. No one cursed at us. The man on the bullhorn said, 'Why work so hard to make the contractor fat and rich? When he is an old man the contractor will be rich and fat

[Continued on page 15]



Sheriff deputy arrests Aurora Morales February 18 in a lettuce field belonging to Ben Abatti.



# ANOTHER MASSACRE



CHP officer tries to remove the dead and injured from the wrecked mini-bus.

## BORDER PATROL VAN CRASH KILLS 12 FARM WORKERS, SIX CRITICALLY INJURED

EL CENTRO, Ca. -- Less than two months after labor contractor Jesus Ayala's bus, massacred 19 Imperial Valley lettuce workers in Blythe, a U.S. Border patrol mini-bus collided into a parked truck killing 12 farm workers and critically injuring six. The 61-year old border patrolman driving the vehicle was also killed.

The farm workers were "Illegals", (Mexican citizens in the U.S. without proper immigration papers), being taken to a Border Patrol camp near Chula Vista for deportation. They had been Arrested in Oregon, California and Idaho.

The crash occurred March 7 in midafternoon. The mini-bus veered sixteen feet off Interstate 8,

just 40 miles west of El Centro and slammed into the rear-end of a semi tractor-trailer parked in a truck rest area.

### Crowded van

Preliminary reports indicate that the driver may have fallen asleep at the wheel. No skid marks were found at the scene of the crash and, apparently, the mini-bus' brakes were working.

Two days after the crash, **El Malcriado** reporters interviewed Vicente Ramirez, one of the survivors, at the El Centro Community Hospital.

Ramirez said, "We were all squeezed together in that bus. I think there were seventeen of us. Since I was in the corner of the bus with my head bent over, well, I couldn't see anything. We were driving along peacefully, and all

of us awake.

"Some of the compañeros didn't fit so they went on top of the rest of us.

"The only thing that I can remember is that at the time of the accident they told me, 'Get down! Get down!' And so I got down by myself. But the pain and my desperation were so great that I lost consciousness."

### Another cover-up?

**El Malcriado** reporters found that the 18 farm workers were squeezed into three parallel benches, each six feet long, in a space less than five feet wide, along with 180 pounds of luggage. The U.S. Border Patrol says the capacity of the bus is 18 farm workers, but U.S. law permits only sixteen school children to ride in a similar bus.

The California Highway Patrol, the National Transportation Safety Board, the FBI, and the Immigration Service have all begun investigations into the accident. These investigations, however,

are not expected to beyond the immediate details of the crash, and readers are advised to read the next issue of **El Malcriado** for a wider analysis of the situation.

"We were all squeezed together in that bus....Some of the compañeros didn't fit so they went on top of the rest of us....The only thing that I can remember is that at the time of the accident they told me, 'Get down! Get down!' And so I got down by myself. But the pain and my desperation were so great that I lost consciousness." --Vicente Ramirez



"When you see the flags fly in front of the Botica Popular, it's the sign to begin the paro."

# EL PARO

The growers in the Imperial Valley are equipped with the latest in electronic communications equipment. Ben Abatti drives a fancy jeep with a radio telephone. The jeep carries loudspeakers which Abatti uses to try to drown out the shouts of picketing workers.

John Jackson's office is in the center of a complex field telephone network and is equipped with a teletype machine that runs day and night.

In Mexicali, farmworkers don't even have telephones. The UFW in Calexico owns two old and beaten bullhorns and a mimeograph machine that sometimes works. Yet, although the paro of February 18 was not called until six hours before it began an estimated one-half of the Valley's 8-10,000 farm workers did not even leave their homes to cross the border that day.

## Worker-to-worker

UFW organizer Ricardo Villalpando says that real communication depends on people and not on technology. For weeks, he and dozens of other workers struggled to lay the groundwork for the paro, a worker-to-worker communications system. The system is based on reaching the people in their homes and on the labor contractor buses.

"The bus campaign began after the 9th of January," he recalled. "Those of us in the union began to look at the problems that exist in the countryside and the problems the workers have with the other companies."

"At first we just began to give out information, relaying messages among the workers. If the San Andreas Company wasn't paying checks correctly, we would make the other workers aware of it. If the Bruce Church Company charged a worker two or three times for Teamster dues, we would also talk about it. More and more we found ourselves with the responsibility for relaying this information."

## Abuses and inaction

"And the more we found out about the problems, the more Teamster and grower abuses we discovered. People weren't getting any representation from the Teamsters at all. From that point grew the need to work harder, more strength and spirit for speaking, more unity among the people."

Not long after the campaign began, a labor contractor bus en route to a ranch with a Teamster contract crashed into a drainage ditch near Blythe, killing 19 farm

workers. Immediately the energy of the Union went into caring for the injured and the families of the dead. (See edition Vol. VII No. 2 of El Malcriado)

"Afterwards," said Villalpando, "we asked, 'what did the Teamsters do for the fallen ones?' People were really interested."

## Elect committees

Meanwhile, the workers at the ranches with Teamster contracts were organizing as well. "We have committees on all the ranches that the people themselves have elected on their own," according to Villalpando, "so they could represent them if anything should happen."

Such committees are provided for in UFW contracts but not in Teamster contracts.

"And they got together and came to us and assured us that they wouldn't work on the day we said we won't work."

"The people were excited because they wanted to strike. 'The time has come,' they kept telling us. They knew that 12 years ago 1962 they were getting paid about \$1.05 to \$1.20 a box for asparagus and still they are being paid the same thing."

## "We want to strike"

At the weekly UFW meeting January 31, Manuel Chavez told the workers, "A lot of people have been coming to me saying, 'look at what the companies are doing to us, taking our money, firing us... we want a strike! But now is not the time to strike.'"

"The ranchers want us to strike now rather than later, but let's strike them when we want and not when they want."

The time came two weeks later when the asparagus harvest began and the growers were vulnerable. The decision was made several weeks beforehand but the decision was kept to the organizers. "When you see the flags fly in front of the Botica Popular," they told the workers, "it's the sign to begin the paro."

The committees on the Teamster ranches agreed that no publicity would be given ahead of time—no press, no radio, no television, no leaflets. Everything depended on the network that had been built over the previous weeks.

At 9 p.m. February 17, the network was activated and the word went out. That night none of the organizers slept. They went door-to-door in Mexicali and Calexico.

Six hours later at 2 a.m., the flags flew in front of the Botica Popular.



ENRIQUE ZOMBRANA

"The teamsters are robbing us farm workers by charging us dues that are as high as the truck drivers pay. The only good benefits for us are the ones that are made by contract."

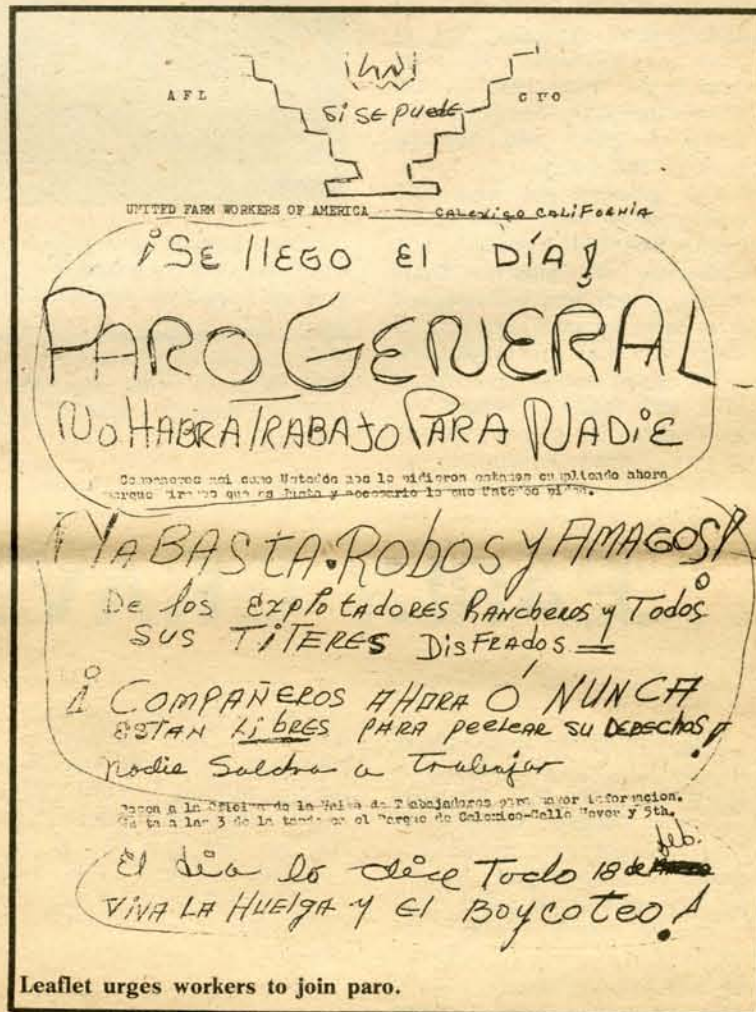
Ask the survivors of the bus that turned over what happened and you'll see that the Teamsters didn't help a single farm worker on it. If you didn't know about it, find out and you'll come to the conclusion that the Teamster union is no good for the farm worker. It belongs to the patron. Make your own conclusion from that."

ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ

ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ is one of the reasons why the paro was a success. He believes in education, street education, communication between farm workers and during the paro he was one of a dozen Union members that spent hours talking with them in parking lots, aboard buses, in cafes and later on the picket lines.

Early in the morning he was talking with workers who had just gotten off a Bud Antle bus: "What we need is to all join together, because we're not united. You are not united with me nor am I united to you. When they give you a job, there you are all alone. First let's build a Union and afterwards, we will have the strength (power) among all of us to ask for the wages that we want."

Right now we can't because you don't help me and I don't help you."



Leaflet urges workers to join paro.



"We can't even ask for a decent wage now. The patron pays us what he wants. Why? Because you are not united with all the rest of us. We all need to unite but you don't want to. So we can't ask for better wages. If I ask for it the patron will run me off and you'll keep on working. So look, if we all ask for higher together they can't fire me or you because we'll all walk out and

then who would do his work? So, he can't fire me nor anyone else when we are all united..."

What is lacking is a school to take all these people who believe that a Union is some kind of benevolent society, that joining the union means guaranteed work for life and it's just not that way. The Union is ourselves and it is we who have to unite and put forward a representative who will defend our rights."



# WELFARE FOR GROWERS....

## Imperial Valley

Imperial County is said to be the sixth richest agricultural county in the United States. What is less often talked about is that this wealth is 100% dependent on a system of huge federal subsidies and upon the exploitation of a cheap and abundant labor supply from Mexico.

## Rich man's welfare

The construction of the All-American Canal in 1940 turned the Imperial Valley from a barren desert into an agricultural empire free of charge to the growers. The subsidy is calculated at over \$100 million in taxpayers' money.

In addition to the free water, the growers get money to build underground drainage tiles to leach away salt-laden water from their fields. From 1966 to 1970 alone, the U.S. Spoil Conservation program paid Imperial growers \$1.7 million.

The growers get free land management and crop advice worth \$490,000 annually. A University of California fields station spends \$400,000 to speed farm mechanization and use of chemicals, at no cost to growers.

The growers tap easy money from the federal budget for growing, or not growing certain crops in order to keep prices up. In one year, 1969, over \$8 million



Before the asparagus strike began, harvest workers in the \$26 million industry were paid \$1.30 a box or less than 1 cent per pound of the 79 cents paid by consumers at the supermarket. When the strike began, growers upped the minimum to \$1.40.

were given to Imperial cotton and grain farmers, while sugar beet growers received a total of 2.6 million.

In the past ten years one of

every two jobs for farm workers in the Imperial Valley has disappeared—from 14,500 to 7,500. The scarcity of jobs forced many farm workers to move to the cities, where they had to accept

token assistance from welfare.

Twenty-four percent of the population in Imperial County is now on welfare. In contrast to the hundreds of millions doled out to the growers each year, a meager

\$7.8 million are set aside for the poor.

In the winter of 1971 there was a farm slump that was so severe that it caused a local "war on poverty" program to make \$5,000 in food available to 166 families especially hard hit. George Ballis, an observer who saw the food distribution, said:

"A widow with eight children pays over \$100 monthly for four rooms with no inside running water."

"A family with 13 kids. Last year, the man joins the farm workers strike to improve wages. He is blacklisted by Imperial Valley ranches."

A farm worker's widow with five children lives in a one-bedroom house."

"A family with three kids. Husband falls off a tractor, and an operation at the county hospital leaves him almost paralyzed. His disability runs out, and his scar from mid-stomach to mid-back swells painfully whenever he exerts himself."

"A family with six children. The wife is dying of cancer. As she gets weaker her husband stays home to take care of her during her last three months of life, though he cannot afford to do this! He cannot afford any kind of help. One week after receiving their food voucher for \$30, the wife dies."

## ...EARLY GRAVES FOR FARM WORKERS

For most of the thousands of day workers who each day cross the border in the U.S., the years of toil in Imperial Valley fields have brought only subsistence living and bodies that give out after 10 years of the stoop labor.

The day begins at 2:00 in the morning in El Hoyo ("The Hole") in Calexico, where contractors select the youngest and strongest from among the hundreds of farm workers. If lucky enough to be chosen, a worker then begins a journey to the lettuce, sugar beet or asparagus fields that may lie as far as 100 miles away. There is no such thing as pay for travel time nor a guarantee of any pay at all.

## Killer buses

Most of the buses that carry farm workers are 10 and 20 years old, like the farm labor bus that killed 19 men, women and children in mid-January.

Labor contractors flaunt safety laws covering their buses, while the California Highway Patrol who is supposed to regularly inspect the buses shirks its responsibility. Dim lights, faulty brakes, unsafe wiring systems and above all the overworked and sometimes intoxicated drivers (driven to drink by the inhuman living and working conditions) are just a few of the common defects that turn these buses into coffins on wheels.

In the fields work may start by 7:00 a.m., but three-hour waits

because of frost are not uncommon here. The "mayordomo" (crew-boss) is close by throughout the day, pushing and driving the workers faster and faster. Those who are not fast enough are ridiculed, then fired if they don't quit first. This means a long and payless wait in buses for the long ride back to Calexico at the end of the day.

## Dues rake-off

It is here in the fields that the Teamster "coyotes" come around to collect signatures, promising imaginary benefits so that dues can later be deducted from their checks. It is the only time they are ever seen by the workers. Those that refuse to sign are fired, or have their paychecks deducted anyway.

When the day is finally over the farm workers return to El Hoyo, covered with dust and massaging their sore backs and arms. They may have earned \$16 in hourly wages, or as much as \$35 by piece-work for the day.

## Wages don't go far

Back in Calexico and Mexicali the days' wages will not go far. A kilo of tortillas that was 12 cents in 1972 is now 26 cents. Bottled water that sold for 17 cents the year before cannot be found for less than 25 cents now.

The growers and bankers that keep a stranglehold on wages in

the Imperial Valley also control food prices along the Mexican border. 60% of the canned goods made in Mexico are produced by American companies like Carnation, Del Monte, Kelloggs, and Borden's.

This outside control is only mirrored in industry and agriculture along the border. Today there are 300 U.S. "maquilado-

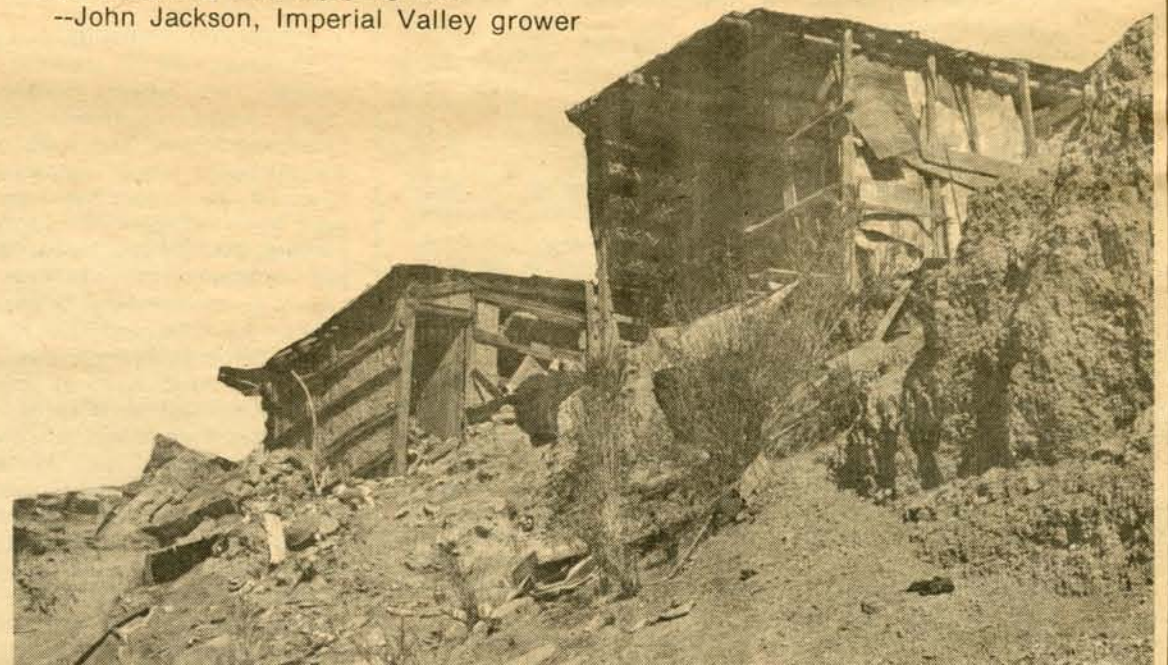
ras" ("assembly plants") that employ close to 40,000 workers in "sweat shop" conditions.

The minimum wage is \$3.68 a day. Eight of every ten workers in these plants are young women from 17 to 23 years of age, who are hired because they can be paid less than the minimum wage, sometimes as little as \$2.24 a day.

Recently, the workers of In-mex, one of the maquiladoras, went on strike for a better deal. And they found ready support from the farm workers. Despite the hardships caused by the paro and asparagus strike, farm workers emptied their pockets at a meeting in Calexico February 22 to give \$100.92 to their Mexican sisters and brothers' strike fund.

"Listen, I've been to Mexicali and I've seen how things are there; but you knock on the door of an adobe hut there and you see that the people are happy! They're smiling and laughing and enjoying life!

--John Jackson, Imperial Valley grower





# Public confession: GROWERS ELECTED TEAMSTERS

## "The Teamsters are in a Bind"

"The Teamsters are in a bind because they can't keep both sides happy - only one side or the other, and in order to keep the growers happy and maintain their sweetheart arrangement they just can't afford to give the workers any representation. The moment they try to give the workers representation and take care of grievances and get an adequate contract, at that moment they'll be thrown out into the street because the only reason the growers brought them in was to interfere with us and keep us from getting a legitimate contract. And so we're all the way out in the street, but we're in better shape than the Teamsters are."

--Cesar Chavez

Why do farmworkers reject all grower-Teamster agreements as "sweetheart" contracts? Because they were signed without farmworker approval. The growers admit the workers were not consulted. Imperial Valley grower John Jackson says, "The

industry elected in 1970 to go with the Teamsters."

William Grami, director of organizing for the Western Conference of Teamsters, says the Teamsters' signed with the growers to protect truck drivers and packing shed workers from

farm worker strikes. He says nothing about protecting farm workers from anything.

The California Supreme Court reviewed all of the facts in connection with a grower lawsuit (Englund vs. Chavez) stemming from the massive 1970 UFW strike in Salinas. The workers struck to protest the sweetheart contracts. When the Court issued its decision in 1972, it agreed with the farm workers.

Here is what happened: In July of 1970 the UFW was about to sign contracts with the major table grape growers of California. The UFW was already organizing lettuce workers and other farm workers in the Salinas and the Imperial Valleys.

On July 23, 1970, the vegetable growers met in Salinas to ratify a new agreement with the Teamsters covering their truck drivers. In an affidavit, Cal Watkins, personnel manager of the Inter-Harvest Company, testifies the growers decided on that day to appoint a committee to "feel out" the Teamsters and "explore the prospects of negotiating an agreement for agricultural workers."

### Teamsters receptive

On July 24, Watkins says, the committee reported back to the growers that the Teamsters were "interested and receptive." The committee "announced that any firm interested in recognizing the Western Conference of Teamsters" could do so. 29 growers immediately did so. The rest followed later.

Negotiations began the next day. "The union (Teamsters) did not at that time claim to represent any agricultural workers," says Watkins, "although they announced that they would take responsibility for signing up the workers."

The California Supreme Court concludes, "In all cases, it is undisputed that at the time he recognized the Teamsters as the exclusive bargaining agent of his field workers, each grower knew that that union did not represent a majority or even a substantial number of field workers..."

Negotiations continued for two days. The Court says, "these workers were never consulted during the negotiations and were never given an opportunity to examine the terms of the contract or even indicate whether or not they wished to be represented by the Teamsters."

InterHarvest signed a Teamster contract on July 26. Ten days later the Teamsters said they had signed up only 108 of the company's more than 1000 workers.

### Workers refuse

The Court declares that during the first few weeks in August "most of the workers refused either to join the Teamsters union

"\$10 or \$12 were deducted from my check for union dues. I never signed any authorization for them to do this. I asked why this had happened, and they said that I had to pay. Before they took my money in January [1974], the Teamsters had me sign a paper in English. I did not understand it. They just told me that I had to pay dues if I wanted to work. The Teamsters have not done anything to help the people. They just take our dues. I never saw a Teamster contract, and they do not have meetings the way that the Chavez union does. It is not a real Union."—Elias L. Yopez,

## WHEN THE WORKERS VOTE...

"What you are asking," Imperial Valley grower John Jackson said recently, "is did the growers sign the contracts without asking the workers. I'm not denying that at all, they did."

"The Teamsters signed on July 26, 1973, on behalf of the entire vegetable industry. The industry is concentrated in Salinas but we joined in down here. There were no workers around here because there was no harvesting. There was no election."

"What I'm saying is that the ground rules weren't laid by the growers, the pattern was set by Chavez in the grape fields three or four years ago. There was no vote there."

### No vote?

Perhaps Jackson doesn't remember that the UFW won the first secret ballot election ever held in agriculture. In 1966 the UFW defeated the Teamsters 815-530 in elections supervised by the California State Conciliation Service at the DiGiorgio ranches in the San Joaquin Valley.

Or maybe he's forgotten the eight card checks with wine grape companies in 1966-67 where the UFW won by such votes over a "no union" position as 85-26 at

Almaden, 68-0 at Gallo, or 91-0 at two Christian Brothers Ranches. (Card checks: signed declarations authorizing a union as a bargaining agent are matched to the grower's payroll list to see if the majority of the workers favor the Union.)

And maybe Jackson can't recall the:

—79-2 and 74-0 representation election votes at the Larson ranches in Coachella in April of 1970, supervised by the U.S. Catholic Bishops' ad hoc committee on farm labor.

—168-4 contract ratification at the Henry Reider Ranch on Indio, supervised by the Bishops' committee.

—194-4 contract ratification election at John Kovacevick Ranch in Arvin, supervised by the Bishops' committee.

—155 out of 243 workers at D'Arrigo in Arizona who signed UFW authorization cards on Dec. 22, 1970.

"The industry elected in 1970 to go with the Teamsters," says Jackson. But the record indicates which way elections go when the workers vote."

or to sign or ratify the grower Teamster agreements... it appears clear that by mid-August at least a substantial number and probably a majority of the... field workers desired to be represented by UFWOC rather than by the Teamsters."

Meanwhile, UFW launched a massive strike of over 7000 workers in the Salinas Valley. At the time the Los Angeles Times labeled the strike the largest in the history of agriculture.

A committee of Catholic Bishops headed by Msgr. George Higgins conducted a poll of Inter-Harvest workers and concluded on August 23 that UFW represented a majority of the workers. On August 30 the company renounced its Teamster contract and signed with UFW, as did D'Arrigo and FreshPict.

But the other growers decided to stay with the Teamsters and obtained an injunction banning the UFW strike on the grounds

that there was a "jurisdictional" dispute between the two unions.

They also obtained an injunction banning the lettuce boycott. Cesar Chavez was jailed for violating the anti-boycott injunction, which was later thrown out.

Then in December 1972 the California Supreme Court ruled against the growers. The Court declared the strike was not a "jurisdictional dispute" because the growers had not maintained neutrality and knew that the Union they had signed with did not represent the workers. The injunction was thrown out.

Since that time the UFW has filed a \$128 million suit against the Teamsters, demanding that the contracts themselves be declared illegal as a conspiracy between the growers and the Teamsters to deny farm workers their right to choose their own union.

## UNITED FARM WORKERS SLIDE SHOW



**POWERFUL MINI-DOCUMENTARY** of the recent Coachella grape strike--the arrests, violence and deaths that forced a return to the boycott

**ON-THE-SPOT RECORDINGS** of strike chants, huelga songs and excerpts from a rally speech by Cesar Chavez

**THOUGHTFUL COMMENTARY AND BACKGROUND SCENES** of farm worker life and problems

Show includes 140 slides for Kodak Carousel and cassette tape sound track (13 1/2 minutes)

**FOR SUPPORT GROUPS, CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS CHURCHES, SCHOOLS**  
Copies available at cost--\$28 (plus shipping & handling--\$2) for UFW Support Committees \$50 for institutions, schools, and church organizations.

ORDER FROM:

**EL TALLER GRAFICO**  
UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA  
P.O. BOX 62  
KEENE, CA. 93531



# THE TEAMSTERS ARE JUST BANDITS WHO ROB THE PEOPLE OF THEIR MONEY'

During the paro in the Imperial Valley February 18, more than 1,000 farm workers signed authorization cards naming the United Farm Workers of America as their collective bargaining representative. Many made formal declarations in repudiation of the Teamsters Union. They accuse the Teamsters of using threats, trickery and fraud to make them sign up, steal their money and abuse them. The following are excerpts from some of the declarations:



**TEAMSTER SENIORITY** --Too early, but too old, and elderly farm worker tries to protect himself from the cold morning air at El Hoyo, too weak for the grueling pace farm workers under Teamster contracts must face each day.

## Gildardo R. Perez and Francisco Cota Rivera

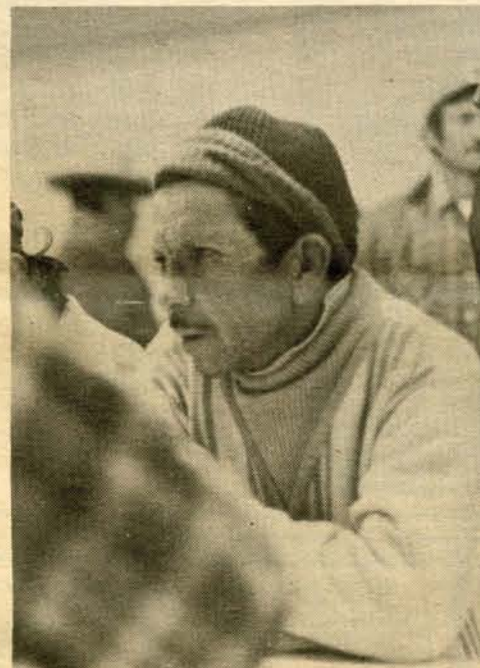
On December 12, 1973, after we had finished the work for the day, and while we were returning to Calexico on the bus, the foreman told us that we could not continue working for the Company unless we joined the Teamsters Union. We, along with about forty other workers in the crew, refused. After we said this, we were paid for the day's work and told that we no longer had a job....



## Benito M. Barcelo

About two weeks ago I began to work for the ADMIRAL Company in the lettuce here in the Imperial Valley.... The foreman came to me and said that I had to fill out a yellow card. When I got my check from ADMIRAL on Friday, February 15, 1974, they had deducted \$23 for Teamster Union dues.... Just one week ago....I was working at the BRUCE CHURCH COMPANY and they took out \$3.00 Teamster dues from my check. In February, that means that already I have paid \$31 Teamster dues.

Unionist Francisco Salazar as he is arrested during the paro February 18: "As long as we are farm workers and work the land, no one is going to run us out!"



## Guadalupe Acosta

I would not have signed that paper which allowed them to deduct the Teamster Dues and which made me a Teamster member if I had known what it was. The only reason that I signed was that they told me that I could not work without signing.

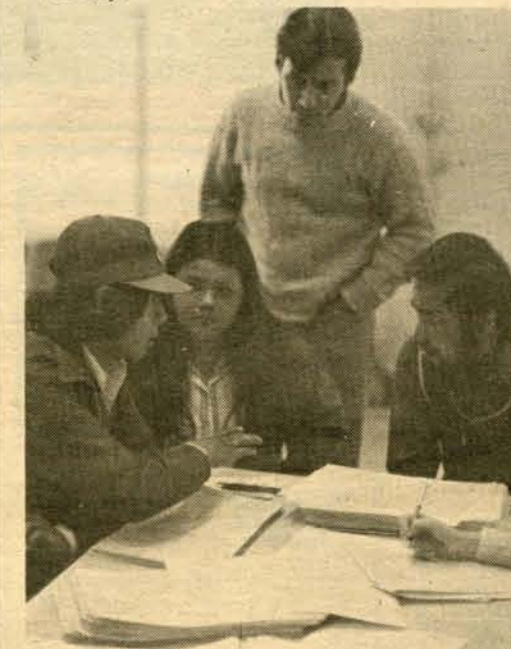
## Salvador Trejo

During the time that I worked for (Danny) Dannenberg, there was approximately \$90.00 taken out of my pay for Teamsters dues. I do not believe that I ever signed a Teamster authorization card or any Teamster membership card. The only paper I ever signed while working for Dannenberg was a paper each time I received my pay check. I was told to sign this paper to acknowledge that I had received my pay check....

If any of the papers were in fact Teamster authorizations, and I was tricked, then I now renounce Teamster membership.

## Maria Meza

The foreman came to me with a paper in English and told me that it was just for the company's records. I did not understand the paper, but signed it.... I would never have signed the paper if I had known that it was a Teamster authorization card. I am a strong UFW member and believe that the Teamsters are just bandits who rob the people of their money.



## Dora Sanchez y Juan Jose Salas

Our foreman...said that the people who signed would get a raise right away, up to \$2.38, but that those who did not sign would only get \$2.08.

We signed the cards, but not because we wanted to be a part of the Teamsters. We signed because we were afraid to lose our jobs. We got the raise right away. Since we signed, we have been pushed harder by the foreman.

## Jesus Sandoval Sandoval

I told him (the Teamster organizer) that I was a Chavista and not interested in being a part of his group. He then told me that I had three days to sign or I would be fired. I told him that if he was going to fire me he better do it right now because I was not going to sign. The whole crew began to shout "VIVA CHAVEZ" and the teamster went out of the field. The supervisors and the foremen might want the Teamsters, but the workers do not.

## Camilo Castillo

While we were working, one of the fellows put a staple through his hand. A Teamster representative was present, but he did nothing. He said the company should take care of it, that it was not the business of the Teamsters.

## Amador Ibarra

In September of 1973 a son of mine got sick and the Teamsters said that they would take care of it. They still have done nothing for me.

## Jose Diaz

The foreman told us that we would be paid the extra two cents per box as soon as we signed with the Teamsters.... The Teamsters tried to bribe me into signing with them, but I refused, so I never got the pay raise that they promised us.

## Pablo Ramos

When I signed, the Teamsters promised medical benefits and unemployment insurance. However, when I go to doctors, they have never heard of the Teamsters' medical plan, and the plan won't help me with my bills...

## Brijido Zacarias

On Jan. 31, 1974 I signed a paper which my foreman told me to sign. All the workers were there, and he told us all to sign the paper. I did not read it as it was in English and nobody explained it to me.

I would not have signed the paper if I knew it was a Teamster authorization card because I do not want to be a Teamster member and because the United Farm Workers of America can help me more.



# Imperial County Sheriff's Department: THE GROWERS, PRIVATE ARMY

John Jackson was angry February 21. It was the fourth day of the strike and his asparagus was not getting picked. He was losing \$50,000 a day.

The day before he and three other growers had obtained a court order which limited picketing by striking workers in the fields and at the pick-up point for his labor contractor "El Don Coyote."

"We have an injunction," he told El Malcriado reporters, "We got this injunction and the sheriff didn't enforce it today! But that will change, wait and see!"

Throughout the day, strikers on the picket line overheard reports on the sheriff's radios that the growers were unhappy with the enforcement of the injunction. Ben Abatti himself had been on the phone, they said, demanding heavier action.

## Don't look to the police

Later that afternoon, a hundred workers picketed the few El Don buses that returned to El Hoyo from the fields.

"Brothers and sisters," a cry floated over the line of police from the picket line, "don't look to the police for protection. The sheriffs are here to protect the growers, not you. We are the only ones who can protect you!"

Minutes later, the sheriffs arrested 18 workers for defying the injunction and swept through the picket line several times, pushing, shoving, and beating the workers.

(The attack climaxed a week of harassment by Imperial Valley law enforcement officials. In all, 41 farm workers were jailed, including seventeen who were arrested during the paro on Monday after they convinced a lettuce crew to leave an Abatti field. Throughout the strike, police escorted the few buses belonging to scab contractor El Don to the fields and frequently stopped cars of huelgistas and demanded to see their immigration papers.)

UFW attorney Daniel Boone, who witnessed the police attack, said, "They charged into a group of people, literally yelling, snarling, and growling, waving their four-foot clubs as they ran."

## A planned attack?

"They pushed many people with such force that men and women were knocked to the ground. The farm workers were walking away from the sheriffs, but not fast enough for them."

At one point, Boone said, the police were called back into line and regrouped. "Then a single dirt clod hit the sidewalk about five or ten feet in front of me and at least 20 feet from the nearest sheriff."

"Immediately one of the officers yelled, 'let's get them!' My distinct impression is that the sheriffs were waiting for this signal, that they were standing poised for the charge... Another wave of sheriffs swept past me toward the railroad tracks, the

officers knocking people down...

"This again was a wild charge, the faces of the men ferocious and contorted, although they were in no way endangered. I saw in these actions a seemingly desperate drive to intimidate and injure, no matter what the age or sex of the victim, so long as they had brown skin."

The temporary restraining order obtained by the growers limited picketing at each field to one every 50 feet with a maximum of 25 picketers, and at El Hoyo to a maximum of 10 pickets at least 100 yards away from the buses.

(Two labor contractors initially involved in the lawsuit withdrew their names the day after the police attack, charging that the growers' lawyer Tom Nassif had included them without their permission.)

"The growers want the injunction because we're costing them a lot of money," Union attorney Deborah Peyton commented.

"They fear the picket lines, especially at the buses in the morning, because they know the asparagus workers are strong with the union."

"Getting an injunction and having the police enforce it is a cheap way to exercise their power and try to influence the workers. They use the sheriffs as their own private army..."



"I was there with a picket line for half an hour when the police made us move back 100 yards. We back up and stood there another half an hour..."

Without further notice the police tried to push us out of El Hoyo all the way up the hill to the railroad tracks. When we moved the second time a policeman pushed me when I was leaving. He wanted me to run. I told him that I was walking, but there was no reason for me to run.

A moment later I saw my friend Francisco Reyes was being beaten. It was then that the same policeman that had pushed me before hit me in the back of the head. Maybe seeing the other policeman hitting Francisco made him mad, but he hit me. I felt the blow and then began to run away, but it was only a little later that I felt the blood flow from under my cap.

I was on the sidewalk when they hit me, about 20 yards from the railroad tracks. Many persons fell to the ground when the police shoved them with their clubs.

The violence was not only done to me, but to everyone there, including the women and the Union lawyers."

Ruben Gonzales

**Restaurant**  
**Real Colima**  
74 Porter Drive  
Watsonville  
724-0080  
Authentic cooking  
from the state of  
Colima  
Manuel Cabero V., owner

**TEXACO** **U-HALL**  
**Miranda's Texaco**  
Brakes. Shocks. Tune-Ups  
431 Abbott St.  
Phone 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 823 E. ALBIAL  
Phone 758-3015 SALINAS, CALIF. 93901

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

**BINGO SUPER MARKET**  
GROCERIES  
MEATS - BEER -  
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

Mon.-Fri. 12 to 5  
Saturday 11 to 3  
**LA RAZA BOOKSTORE**  
1228 F. Street  
Phone: 446-5133  
Sacramento, Ca.  
95814  
Viva La Causa  
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 Promptness 66  
(408-722-6700)  
175 Main St. 66 Watsonville, Ca

Send us News  
of your boycott  
To  
**EL MALCRIADO**  
P. Box # 62  
Keene, Ca. 93531

**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

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

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

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

**ARTICHOKE INN**  
Restaurant and Bar  
A good place to eat  
Newly remodeled -- now open  
Owner: Ricardo M. Sanchez  
18 Porter Drive, Watsonville, California 724-9726

**MEDINA'S EXXON**  
SPECIALIZING IN  
BRAKES SHOCKS  
& TUNE UPS  
431 Abbott St.  
Phone 422-5123  
Salinas, Ca. 93901

LET 35,000 READERS GET YOUR MESSAGE.  
SEE EL MALCRIADO RATES FOR DISPLAY  
ADVERTISEMENTS AND CLASSIFIED ADS  
PAGE 15. Don't pass up the chance!



# 'THE WORKERS DON'T UNDERSTAND'

John Jackson is a business executive. He runs the multi-million dollar agribusiness corporation called Jackson Enterprises, which grows everything from asparagus to lettuce to beef cattle in the Imperial Valley.

He is a young grower who considers himself part of a new generation of growers who will organize agribusiness into a unified industry and eliminate old rivalries. He is on the Board of Directors of the Western Growers Association.

He is tied into the other giant agribusiness concerns in the Valley. Its produce is packed by Bud Antle (owned by Dow Chemical) and marketed through Freshpict Foods (owned by Pur-ex) and through Heggeblade-Marguleas-Tenneco, (two of the largest food corporations in the U.S.)

Jackson Enterprises owns at least 2,200 acres of land in the Valley, worth nearly \$3 million, and it rents as much as 7,500 more acres. Imperial County records indicate that the corporation has purchased much land in recent years, part of the trend towards the concentration of land ownership in the Valley into fewer and fewer hands.

"Efficiency" is John Jackson's favorite word. He speaks of investments, overhead management, and "the industry". "We farm pretty large scale" he says, "it seems to be most efficient."

In 1970 he signed a contract with the Teamsters, as he admits, without consulting any workers. The contract allowed him to use his labor contractor "El Don" to keep the workers unorganized and under control.

Recently, though, the foundation of Jackson's empire has begun to crack as his workers practically shut down the asparagus ranch for an entire week during the paro and strike of late February.

## "They don't understand"

One day during the asparagus strike he had a lengthy exchange with some workers as to what their best interests are.

Afterwards he told reporters, "I know how to communicate with them, you know, I speak Spanish."

"They want higher wages and I sympathize with that. We've worked out responsible wage negotiations which will allow for the cost of living expenses they



Esparagus doesn't harvest itself. Here (left to right) labor contractor Don "El Don Coyote" Currier, grower John Jackson, and company supervisors try to "keep cool" as they stand in empty fields during the asparagus strike.

are talking about. I don't think they understand this, though."

"We worked out a sliding wage scale that was increasing every year, but we were going to pay the workers in a different way than they were used to getting paid. We were going to pay them on a pack-out basis instead of a field-box basis, which is the traditional method."

"Pack-out" means a worker is paid only for that part of what he picks which is actually used by the company; "field box" means he is paid for everything he picks. Farm workers generally feel that

growers use the pack-out method to cheat them.)

"Well, the thing that we didn't see," he says, "is that its going to be a very long term project and very difficult to educate the worker as to why this is better for him."

"The growers met two days ago on this, the asparagus growers, and we said maybe we're rushing into this, so let's go back to the field box rate, which we did. And we decided to go ahead with a 10 cent a box wage increase that we had been planning for a month or so."

## "The people are happy"

Jackson denies that his empire in the Valley exploits farm workers. "You people have to be careful," he told El Malcriado reporters one day, "and not wish for what you think they want instead of what they really want."

"Listen, I've been to Mexicali and I've seen how things are there, but you knock on the door of an adobe hut there and you see that the people are happy!"

"They're smiling and laughing and enjoying life! Why can't we be like that?"

# 'THE PEOPLE ARE NO LONGER AFRAID' MACHINE THREAT FAILS TO STOP STRIKE

"If this keeps up, we'll have no choice but to bring in machines," John Jackson said on the first day of the asparagus strike. "Each one replaces 100 men. We don't want to because the hand-picked crop gets a better price, but we will if we have to. And if we use them, we might like them, right? And then the workers will suffer, and Chavez will be to blame."

UFW organizer Gilberto Rodriguez laughed when asked about the machines. "That's the first thing you always hear from them when there's a strike — they'll bring in the machines, or they'll plough it under. It's gotten so that we'd be surprised if they didn't say it."

"The workers know that the machines don't work. If they did, the growers wouldn't wait for a strike to bring them in, they'd have them here already."

Several days later Jackson was fuming. "If I have to put up with disrupted operations I will, but I can still make a profit! The

workers are not involved enough to see down the road, and one man is a hell of a lot easier to manage than 100, and it's your cross to bear!"

The one man turned out to be not so easy to manage, though. "I operate one of these machines and I know they don't work," said Jesus Gomez, as he climbed down from his tractor in a Jackson field. "I heard a foreman say they are just trying to scare the people into going back to work."

"The workers know that the machines don't work. If they did, the growers wouldn't wait for a strike to bring them in, they'd have them here already."

"If they can get the people to go back to work, they'll just park the machines, and even if they bring in the machines they know they won't bring good results. But the people aren't afraid any more. They no longer fear the growers."



Jesus Gomez, a tractor driver, tells Pedro Baird, a reporter for El Malcriado, why the asparagus machines don't work.





It was not yet light when 150 farm workers carried their homemade red Union flags across the railroad tracks and down into El Hoyo to stop the remaining labor contractor buses from leaving for the fields.

Rosa Jaime watched the empty buses leaving one by one and was visibly distressed. There would be no work for her this Monday, no money for the daily needs. It seemed unfair.

It did not seem unfair to Lupe Leon, one of the 8,000 farm workers firmly behind the paro. In fact the issue was crystal clear to her as she approached Rosa Jaime with her flag in hand.

"The Teamsters are making the rich even richer, and stealing our money to fight against us," she told her.

Lupe is a member of the United Farm Workers of America and works under the UFW contract with the InterHarvest Co. Her working day in the lettuce begins at 7:30 in the morning. Most workers under Teamster contracts must be at El Hoyo to "shape up" from 3:00 a.m. on.

The buses she rides are equipped with toilets and cold water and are subjected to safety inspection by a committee of farm workers. The buses used by Teamster ranches are old, crowded and dangerous, such as the one that killed 19 farm workers in the Blythe massacre. (See Vol. VII No. 2 of *El Malcriado*)

These are but a few of the reasons why Lupe Leon and the other UFW members wanted the same kind of benefits they receive for all farm workers in the Imperial Valley. As much as anyone else that day she knew

how things were for farm workers before the Union was born, before the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee staged a massive strike in 1962 and before the Bracero Program was ended. "I have been working here since 1957," she told Rosa Jaime, "when I worked with contractors that paid me 65 cents an hour. Then the contractors wouldn't even give us water. There were no toilets."

Lupe was also part of the massive strike in the Salinas Valley in 1970 that won the UFW contract she now works under. She knew that victories like these are not won without expressions of unified strength like the Paro General. (Days later Lupe Leon was arrested for defying the growers' injunction.)

"Now with the United Farm Workers of Cesar Chavez we are demanding higher wages for all farm workers. So join our cause, sister. Take my flag."

Still Rosa hesitated as many others with their red flag drew closer, sensing the drama that was unfolding.

Finally Lupe made a decision, smiled and said, "Take my flag. I give you my job--you go to work there."

Then the woman who had never known what the Union was really about took the Union flag and held it high with Lupe, as a cheer went up, "Viva la Causa."

From that morning Rosa Jaime became one of the most active workers behind the paro and following asparagus strike. She joined the picket lines, braved arrest several times and by Thursday she told *El Malcriado* reporters, "Now I'm with La Causa all the way!"

"The Teamsters are making the rich even richer...." -- Lupe Leon

# TAKE MY FLAG

song for Abatti's scabs....

"Now the scabs are thinking  
That times haven't changes,  
So they join the growers,  
Saying, 'Oh, what the hell!'"

Whoever had a pretty daughter  
Couldn't even let her rest,  
He takes her out in the early dawn  
To work like an ox."



**Luis Moreno:** When Cesar started - and we all know the long story - he started with very few workers. His convictions have been very strong to have gone forward to sow what he is now reaping.

I think we should not let Cesar sow alone, without all of us, like good unionists, working together with him. Because the more laborers there are in our movement, the richer the harvest will be for us and our children."



--Ramon Herrera



(Left to Right) Rebeca Buelna, Rosario Pelayo, Zulema Garcia Garcia, Maria Elena Rocha, and Aurora Morales were among those arrested during the paro.

"We are not going to stop striking until the growers get tired, until we break them, until they sign Union contracts with us...."

--Manuel Chavez



# TIDBITS

Friends of MIKE KRATKO (Maintenance and Grounds) will be happy to know that he is back from the hospital good as new... and a broken ankle hasn't slowed Service Center Administrator ANNA PUHARICH.

**Leading a mass demonstration in front of Safeway in Houston is UFW First Vice-President, DOLORES HUERTA, who helped dedicate the new boycott in Houston...The Commission on Human Rights of the ST. LOUIS Catholic Church has endorsed the UFW boycotts with the approval of Cardinal Carberry...Cleveland announces a march and rally on April 6th with Cesar Chavez in town for the occasion. Looks like a big day.**

Two new huelgistas are welcomed to the union staff: MAXIMO JR., son DOLORES and MAXIMO HUERTA of the Coachella Field Office, born January 23rd., and JOSHUA, son of HEIDI URICH and GRAHAM FINCKE of the Calexico clinic...

Boston isn't forgotten — 42 grape growers there from California filed suit against 4 major grocery chains for cooperating with the boycott. Trying to scare the smaller chains? Bullies!...We hear the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America joined the Philadelphia UFW picket line at the A & P. Very nice.

**The CATHOLIC WORKER has called upon readers to intensify the boycott, volunteer assistance and financial help...The NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES has officially endorsed "Farm Workers Week" April 28 to May 4th. and all three boycotts...We of the LA PAZ staff are proud to announce that the TEHACHAPI, CALIFORNIA Town and Country Market took off the grapes and agreed not to reorder Gallo.**

Condolences to HELEN CHAVEZ, whose brother SAM FABELA died March 2nd. after a short illness...

The first wedding at LaPaz calls for congratulations to CLAIRE WALTER (Accounting) and RUBEN MONTOYA (Print Shop)...in

Washington, D.C., Baltimore boycotters GUADALUPE RODRIQUEZ of Arvin and JOSE SALAZAR of Earlimart married February 17th...also in D.C., Georgetown University removed grapes, lettuce and scab wine...and The Association of Black Liquor Stores there has alerted its members to boycott.

There'll be another wedding in La Paz March 17th. for DEBRA BRARZULA of Santa Maria and FRED PATCH (Data Processing). LINDA CHAVEZ and Detroit boycotter ARTURO RODRIGUEZ will be wed the day before papa's birthday, March 30th. Where will it all end?

JOSE PALOMO's friends in Earlimart prepare to welcome him back after successful heart surgery in Chicago, where he worked on the boycott...

**Back home in Delano after hospitalization in Palo Alto is Marcos Ramos, who participated in the Great Delano Strike in 1965. You can write to Marcos at the Delano Convalescent Hospital, 729 Browning Road, Delano, 93215...**

Have you heard of the city of COMMERCE? It's a town, in southern California of 10,000 people whose City council just adopted a resolution endorsing the strike and boycott. Unanimously. Among those urging this action were ESTEBAN TORRES, Congressional candidate in the new 30th district, and former UFW legislative director, ART TORRES, now a candidate for State Assembly from the 56th district. In Los Angeles, the Catholic Priests Senate, representing 1,400 priests, endorsed the Gallo boycott and called for full support of the lettuce and grape boycott...The organization of Spanish-surnamed workers in the entertainment and television media, NOSOTROS, have promised that none of their members will make commercials for Gallo as long as the UFW boycott is in progress. Hats off for Los Angeles!

Meanwhile, we all miss LINDA, CARLOS (Transportation)

and TINANTIZIN LEGRETTE while Linda undergoes medical treatment in L.A. Hurry back, Legrettes!

Gateway pickets in Santa Maria were met by a Teamster counter-picket line. Strange. Oh, well, Santa Maria has all the luck...In Eugene, Oregon, five Safeway picket lines a week have turned away 70,000 customers in one year... In Toronto, rumors are that some priests and nuns have been arrested for trespassing in the parking lot of a Dominion supermarket. What's going on up there?

March Martyr of the Month award goes to Al Rojas serving weekends in the Tulare County jail, Visalia, California. Al supposedly violated an injunction last year during the White River Farms strike.

**In Bakersfield, the attorney of Arvin grape grower, William Mosesian, dismissed his suit for damages against the United Farm Workers when Mr. Mosesian decided he didn't want to be questioned by UFW lawyer JERRY COHEN after all. Good thinking, Bill.**

Striking Gallo Workers and ILWU members on the picket lines at the Oakland docks stopped 2,660 drums of grape concentrate imported by Gallo from Spain to replace grapes lost during the 1973 strike...A liquor store chain which has carried only Gallo for 15 years gave up Gallo after 80 Selma farm workers joined the picket line on weekends there...

Four days of picketing was all it took in San Francisco's West Bay to get the Gallo off the Carla chain shelves. Sounds like fun!

At our headquarters on the hill, we welcome new additions to the working staff: NANCY DESTAFANIS (El Malcriado), MARY WARD (Accounting), BROTHER TOM KESSLER (Administration) JOETTA NEVIS (Work Department), DAVID VILLARINO and ROBERTO SORIA (Security), LETICIA MALDONADO (Service Center Administration), and GORDON YASUI (Taller Grafico).

Finally in Southern California, the murals of CARLOS ALMARAZ are on exhibit this month at the Los Angeles County Museum of Arts. The show "Los Four," presents work by Chicano artist ROBERTO DE LA ROCHA, GILBERT LUJAN, and FRANK ROMERO, along with our famous convention mural and other works by Carlos.

In Seattle, 550 UFW supporters picketing Teamster president Frank Fitzsimmons at a \$25 a plate dinner February 23rd honoring U.S. Secretary of Labor Peter Brennan turned away more than 100 diners. AFL-CIO King County president Jim Bender arriving in tuxedo refused to enter the banquet.

The staff of the Santa Maria Campesino Center helped reunite farm worker OCTAVIANO CANAVA with his mother and sister

in Texas after 18 years of separation...New staff members at the Campesino Center include GLORIA CUELLAR in Delano and OFELIA BUELNA in Calexico

Returning to La Paz are SISTER PEARL MCGINNEY (Legal Dept.) from the New York boycott, and BOB THOMPSON (Field Office Administration) from the Atlanta boycott...CIPRIANO FERREL is now at the Mendota Field Office as its new director via the Detroit boycott and La Paz Administration.

Up in Montana the Catholic Conference is coordinating a public awareness program on the UFW and its consumer boycott, including mailing brochures, TV and newspaper coverage...A judge in Denver denied the Del FarmFood chain an injunction although the store claims it is losing \$30,000 a week...

## Door-to-door...

About 50 El Malcriado organizers from California, including 25 MECHA students from Oxnard and Yuba City, met recently with Cesar Chavez and the El Malcriado staff at La Paz to plan a new door-to-door distribution campaign in California.

Chavez urges organizers to read each edition of El Malcriado carefully and talk to the people about the articles, to organizer city supporters as well as farm workers.

Cesar said the Union decided against individual subscriptions

to the paper, because of rising postage costs. Also, he said, distributing El Malcriado door-to-door makes every distributor an organizer who personally takes the union message to people, something which cannot be done through the mails.

The El Malcriado staff at La Paz thanks the MECHA students, and El Malcriado organizers for their contributions of food and money and the National Farm Worker Service Center for its fine work in making the Conference a success.

## UFW DISPUTE RESOLVED

Misunderstandings which had developed as a result of the United Front Press (UFP) publication, "Si Se Puede", were cleared up at a meeting between Cesar Chavez and UFP representatives.

After lengthy discussion, Chavez acknowledged that UFW had been overly critical of UFP in its evaluation of the publication, and UFP representatives conceded that consultation on the publication with UFW could have avoided the misunderstandings.

WHILE THEY LAST....

## 1974 FARM WORKER CALENDAR



CAL \$1.50 (SPECIAL REDUCED PRICE)

Please mail me \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Worker Calendars at \$1.50 each plus shipping.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Add 10% for shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check or money order out to:

**EL TALLER GRAFICO**  
UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA  
P.O. BOX 62  
KEENE, CA. 93531



A MESSAGE TO FARM WORKERS FROM SAN FRANCISCO SUPPORTERS:

WE PLEDGE OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND  
SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED FARM WORKER'S  
STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION.

DON'T BUY

**BOYCOTT**

**Gallo**

Gallo	Boone's Farm
Paisano	Spanada
Thunderbird	Red Mountain
Carlo Rossi	Tyrolia
Eden Roc	Ripple
	Andre
	Wolfe & Son (Strawberry Ridge)

\*Also, any wine which says "Modesto, California" on the label is Gallo. Gallo does not appear on all labels. Gallo is the only wine company with headquarters in Modesto.

**Guild**

Winemaster's Guild	Old San Francisco
Tres Grand	Parrot V.S.
Cooks Imperial	Director's Choice
Roma Reserve	Guild
Cribari Reserve	Tavola
Jeanne d'Arc	Mendocino
La Boheme	Famiglia Cribari
Ceremony	Garrett
Versailles	Alta
Cresta Blanca	C.V.C.
Saratoga	Virginia Dare
J. Pierot	Lodi
Guild Blue Ribbon	La Mesa
Roma	Ocean Spray Cranberry Rose
St. Mark	Vin Clogg (Parrot & Co.)
	Citation

**Franzia**

Table	Vermouth
Dessert	Louis the Fifth
Sparkling	Private labels

\* Also, any wine which says, "made and bottled in Rippon, California." All Franzia products have #BW3654 on the label.

**Boycotts have been an  
essential part of past  
farmworker victories.  
To help protect  
farmworkers  
rights**

**DON'T  
BUY  
THESE  
LABELS.**

....AND REMEMBER

**GRAPES & LETTUCE!**

**BUY**

**PAUL MASSON**

Paul Masson

**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

Christian Bros. Mont La Selle

**NOVITIATE OF LOS GATOS**

Novitiate

**ITALIAN SWISS COLONY**

Annie Green Springs	Gambarelli
Bali Hai	Davitto
Zapple	Margo
Sangrole	Greystone
Lejon	Cella
Petri	Parma
Santa Fe	Vai Bros.
Mission Bell	Betsy Ross
Jacques Bonet	Italian Swiss Colony
	Gambola

**PERELLI-MINETTI**

California Wine Assoc.

Aristocrat	A.R. Morrow
Greystone	L & J Calwa F.I.
Victor Hugo	Guasti
Ambassador	Ambassador Vermouth
Fino Eleven Cellars	Vino Fino

**INGLENOOK**

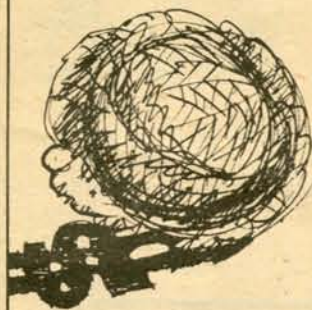
**BEAULIEU**



**SUPPORT THE  
FARMWORKERS**

THIS AD SPONSORED BY:

JUAN ALVARADO, FR. EUGENE BOYLE, C. BRAZIL, JERRY FISKIN, ESQ.,  
LINDA FULLERTON, MANUEL GILL, SCOOP JANOSCH, BOB LEVERING,  
LUPE & GRACE, NANCY & TOM MATTHEWS, BETTY MEREDITH, DOLORES  
MORRIS, FORREST NIXON, ELLEN NUNEZ, DAVID OBERWEISER, MAR-  
GARITA ORTIZ, LORRAINE RAMIREZ, LORNA RICHARD, PAM RICHARD,  
HOWARD PETRICK, JULIE ROBERTS, KEVIN THOMAS, CLARE ZVANSKI,  
ROLAND MAGNON.





# EL MALCRIADO CLASSIFIED ADS

Starting next month, you can reach 35,000 readers in the El Malcriado Classifieds (English & Spanish editions). Classified Rates: \$2.00 for 20 words, \$.10 per additional word. (\$2.00 minimum per ad.) It's easy, use the coupon below for your ad, and enclose check or money order payable to **El Malcriado**. We do not bill, payment must be enclosed.

MAIL TO: **EL MALCRIADO CLASSIFIEDS**  
P.O. Box 62  
Keene, CA 93531

PLEASE PRINT

(NOTE: All advertising subject to the approval of the National Executive Board of the United Farm Workers of America.)

## CONT. FROM PAGE 3

## WE CAN STOP THEM

### EL MALCRIADO DISPLAY RATES

(Includes English & Spanish editions)

- Rate per column inch \$4.00 per column inch
- 10 or more inches \$3.50 per column inch

#### Frequency Discount

- 6 issues - 11 issues \$3.50 per column inch
- 12 issues - 24 issues \$3.00 per column inch

### HELP WANTED

**Manager** for grocery Co-operative being formed in Santa Monica needs manager  
**Requirements:** Grocery management experience, Co-op or related movement experience, not dogmatic about natural foods.  
**Salary:** Negotiable.  
**Contact:** George Tucker, Co-op Organizing Group, 11615 Mississippi Ave., L.A. Calif. 90025.

### HELP WANTED

**Cook** needed for **Union Headquarters - Farm Worker Conferences**. Room, Board, \$5.00 per week. **Write:** Volunteer Dept., United Farm Workers of America, P.O. Box 62, Keene, CA. 93531 or call (805) 822-5571 and ask for Volunteer Dept.

and you will be dead because you are being pushed so hard."

The next day 18 workers including Manuel Chavez were arrested for defying the injunction by picketing the scab contractor El Don's buses as they returned the day after the injunction was obtained.

Following the arrests Imperial County sheriff's deputies attacked the remaining picketers, injuring more than thirty, three of who required extensive treatment.

By February 22, the strikers had been out for five days without any income. Despite their high losses and the workers' repudiation of the Teamster contracts, the growers refused to respond to the UFW demand for a meeting to prove it represented a majority of the workers.

The picketing at the fields continued. Fernando Salazar, back on the line after three days in jail from the arrests of the paro, echoed the thoughts of many others on the line. "We all need money, all of us out here need money, but for me it's worth it to be here carrying this flag."

"We're stronger than ever here because all of us could be in that field too. The beautiful thing is that there are still more people outside the field than inside — that gives us strength and fortifies our spirits."

"Just imagine what we could do organizing ourselves—better food, fewer early mornings and bad nerves, less despotism from the crew boss and the ranchers here, and more education for our People..."

The official voice of the United Farmworkers

# EL MALCRIADO

### Join El Malcriado's Distribution Campaign!

El Malcriado is published every three weeks. Send this form in with your check or money order and we'll send your papers out immediately so you won't miss an issue.

I want to help distribute EL MALCRIADO.  
Send me:

- \_\_\_\_\_ bundle (s) of 50 issues in Spanish.
- \_\_\_\_\_ bundle (s) of 50 issues in English.
- \_\_\_\_\_ bundle (s) of 50 issues with \_\_\_\_\_ issues in English and \_\_\_\_\_ issues in Spanish.

Check one:

Please send number indicated above every issue. \_\_\_\_\_  
Send this issue only. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$5.00 a bundle pre-paid)

MAIL TO: EL MALCRIADO P.O. BOX 62 KEENE CA. 93531

(Office Use Only—do not write in this space.)

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check/M.O.# \_\_\_\_\_



'This is just the beginning,' says Chavez

## ORGANIZED FARM WORKER POWER

**T**oday it was clearly demonstrated, as it was demonstrated in Salinas in 1970 and is demonstrated each time there is a strike, that farm workers want a more decent life, that farm workers want to be free and will never again let themselves be treated like they were before. This morning we saw the beauty of the organized power of farm workers.... Right now, the news of the paro is spreading across the nation, for it is something that causes admiration. People say, "How can it be that workers that already have a contract are out on strike?" And the answer is: Because these contracts are not valid contracts. Also, they only came into existence due to the plotting and the conspiring between the growers and their puppets.

Many of you made complaints against the Teamster dues.... but the biggest complaint that we heard today, according to the reports, is that a large percentage of you say that the union of puppets (Teamsters) is for the growers and the United Farm Workers is for the farm workers.

The clergy from Canada here with us today on an independent investigation went to visit the Teamsters, but when they got to their office in El Centro, they found it closed up, with no one there.

Brothers and sisters, we find ourselves with the huge problems of scarcity and the rising cost of living. Even though wages may rise, in actuality, we are growing even poorer. How is it that wages can rise yet we stay just as poor? What happens is that they give us a raise with the right hand and take it away from us with the left. This means that in order for us to come out even, we must have a wage increase that is greater than the rising cost of living. And 10 or 15 cents or whatever isn't a raise, because it doesn't even equal the cost of living increase."

For example, beans were 59 cents a pound and they used to be 23 cents. And rice--a voice from the crowd: "It's more expensive than chicken!" And meat? Well forget it, because it's so expensive that the only time we see it is in pictures. But the vicious growers and the Teamsters sit down and eat steak, while we don't have enough to eat. Brothers and sisters, rent, water, electricity, gasoline, everything is skyhigh and you are bound to a yoke by a worthless and illegal contract that doesn't let you even lift your heads.

We know, as you all know, that everything has gone up except salaries. \$2.25 and \$2.50 is no decent hourly wage. What do we gain if we get even \$4 and \$5 an hour if when we go to the store it costs twice as much to provide for our families? So the wages must go up along with the cost of living--if not, we are taking two steps forward and three backward.

**W**e are poorer in 1974 than we were in 1964....The only solution to this problem is for there to be economic pressure, strike pressure so that the growers cough up a little more. But before we can get to this we find ourselves with the result of the plot--that in order to get to the growers we've first got to nail the Teamsters. So companeros, remember that every time that you pay Teamster dues, those same are being used against you. We cannot win or make progress until all of you, beginning tomorrow, say with one voice, "We will pay no more dues, and if they force us to pay dues, then it's better to go on strike....than have the Teamsters make poison out of our own medicine."

They get your money and then they use it to fight against you. But if they didn't get that money, if there were no dues, then the Teamsters would have left all by themselves long ago, because they are used to the good life, to fine cars, and fat salaries, to fine liquors and suits.

Instead of working in the interest of the people, they work in the interest of a bank roll. If you don't pay them the dues, then we'll be rid of them. But while you keep paying the dues, they will stick to you like tape-worms and suck your blood. Throw them out! They can fire a few, but they can't fire you all....

The wages for the brothers and sisters who work in the asparagus are very low. Asparagus is extremely expensive when you buy in the store ....The crime is that the man who works in the asparagus fields can't afford to buy it to eat....

Sisters and brothers, what has happened here today is spreading over the entire country. It gives us and our sisters and brothers on the boycott just what they need in their struggle to stop the sale of lettuce. It gives us the spirit, it gives us the information with which to approach the labor unions, the churches, and the entire population of this country and ask them not to eat lettuce.

**R**ights are won with good plans. They are won also with the consciousness and education of all farm workers, and in this case, today's paro is the beginning, the prelude to what's to come....

In 1970 we had a strike in Salinas that many of you participated in and the only reason that we lost it was because the judge brought down an injunction that forced us to return to work. But now we are ready for the next harvest in Salinas, to strike like in '70. Meanwhile, right now it is necessary, sisters and brothers that you remain strong and not fall back. It is crucial that there be organization. We don't have time to do it, but you can do it in every field crew, at every ranch, like we did in 1970, build and organize. Do it quietly, but do it. From each field crew, a representative, from each ranch a ranch committee. Do it clandestinely, but do it. Do it silently, but do it. And so that you can know what is happening, to keep informed, read EL MALCRIADO.

We have two opponents, we have two plagues that are making our lives hell. The puppets and the growers. We've got to join together and throw one to one side and the other to the other side. We've got to get the Teamsters off our backs. To do this there's got to be pressure to make them leave, and the best pressure is no more money. They don't do anything without money, and for one month there is no more money, they'll be gone.

....Now to close, tomorrow at five o'clock in the morning...we must talk with those of you who are asparagus workers. We are going to meet with the asparagus workers first because they are the very poorest now, they are the one of us with the lowest wages. If the asparagus stalks are high today, by tomorrow they are going to look like trees....

Sisters and brothers, we all know that this struggle is necessary and important. We have to fight very hard to better our lives, and the only struggle that doesn't work is when we lose, and the only time we lose a struggle is when our people don't have the courage. Here among the farm workers at the border, there is always always great courage and spirit to improve our lives, a courage that can never be lost. VIVA LA CAUSA Y ADELANTE!

Excerpts from Cesar Chavez' speech in Calexico February 18, 1974.