



Meany attacks Teamsters

AFL-CIO LAUNCHES MAJOR DRIVE TO BOYCOTT GRAPES AND LETTUCE

Huelga in Coachella

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Election fraud at Larson,

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This Almaden crew drove the Teamsters out of the fields.

Almaden contract renewed

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AFL-CIO President
George Meany

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President George Meany of the AFL-CIO announced April 8 that the 12.5 million member labor organization endorses the UFW lettuce and grape boycotts. Meany and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Lane Kirkland made the announcement in a letter presented to UFW president Cesar Chavez at a meeting here.

The endorsement continues a long tradition of support for the UFW from the AFL-CIO and many other trade unions and labor organizations, and opens the door to massive boycott support from unions throughout the country.

"The entire AFL-CIO continues to fully support the UFW in its struggle against the unconscionable raid by the Teamsters and the collusive relationship between the Teamsters and the growers," Meany and Kirkland wrote.

"We had hoped to resolve this dispute through the discussions and negotiations which were held," the letter continued. "However the Teamsters reneged on their agreement with us and the Teamsters and the growers are jointly seeking to destroy the farm workers."

"After consultation with the Committee established by the Executive Council to support the Farm Workers as pursuant to the power granted to us by the AFL-

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Que Viva La Causa!



UFW forms alliance with trucker group

TUCSON, Arizona, — Truckers for Justice (TFJ) a nationwide organization of independent truck drivers, says its members will respect UFW picket lines and not haul scab grapes or lettuce.

In a joint statement here with Cesar Chavez April 3, Georgia truck driver A. S. Phifer, chairman on TFJ, said his organization and the UFW had reached a "working alliance," because "truckers and farm workers are both victims of the policies of the giant monopolies and a corrupt government, and because-

both truckers and farm workers are committed to the cause of justice."

Truckers for Justice was formed at a Tucson truck stop during the nationwide shutdown by independent truck drivers December 13-14 of 1973. In a statement issued at that time, the truckers attacked profiteering by the oil corporations as the chief cause of the energy crisis.

The group now has over 500 members, all long haul truck drivers.

Chavez said the UFW supports

the truckers' demands for a rollback of fuel prices to the level of May 15, 1973, a complete public audit of the major oil companies' records, the elimination of the 55 mph speed limit, and full review by the government of the problems truckers face.

"The attacks on the UFW by

Frank Fitzsimmons are a national disgrace," Phifer said. "His refusal to allow the farm workers to vote for the bargaining agent of their choice should outrage all working people. We do not believe that Fitzsimmons, who has also betrayed the American trucker, reflects the will of Teamsters Union members. We know the Teamster members are

disgusted with this action by Fitzsimmons, and we urge them to join with us in this policy in the cause of justice."

"Our position," said TFJ communications director Rees Lloyd, "is that if Fitzsimmons and Nixon want to eat scab grapes and lettuce, they'll have to eat them in the fields."

Canadian Clergy supports grape, lettuce boycotts

TORONTO, Ontario — An inter-church committee of Canadian clergy has issued a statement urging Canadians to boycott non-UFW grapes and lettuce until such time as farm workers are granted free secret ballot union elections.

During a ten day tour of farm worker areas in California during February, the group met with Cesar Chavez and Teamster officials, visited grape growers in Coachella, and were present in Calexico during the massive one-day general strike against Teamster contracts.

"The struggle of the American farm workers for social justice and their human right to self determination should be of serious concern to the Canadian churches," the delegation concluded.

"The UFW is in a better position than any other organization to end the traditional abuses of farm labor. It represents a grass roots movement that gives thousands of powerless people an

opportunity to improve their lives through collective action," the statement said.

"We agree with the position of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Churches in the U.S. that the UFW boycott of grapes and head lettuce be supported until such time as growers, government, and unions cooperate in giving field workers free secret ballot elections."

Signing the statement were Rev. Francis Cook of the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada, Rev. Robert Cuyler of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, Sister Caroline Dawson, a dean of women at the University of Toronto, Rev. Robert Gaudet, S. J., of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, Rev. Robert Lindsay of the United Church of Canada, Rev. Robert Madden of Saint Basil's College, and Rev. Brad Massman, Director of the office of Social Action of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

AFL-CIO Launches

(continued from page 1)

CIO Executive Council, we are fully endorsing, effective today, the product boycott of lettuce and table grapes. He said the AFL-CIO would also provide written materials and cartoons for union newspapers.

The AFL-CIO endorsement does not include the boycott of Gallo wines, but Chavez said the UFW would continue this boycott on its own and would continue its efforts to obtain an endorsement.

The Gallo boycott endorsement has been held up, he said, because of objections by the AFL-CIO-affiliated Glass Bottle Blowers and the Wine Distillery Workers Union, both of whom currently hold contracts with Gallo.

Farah boycott

A similar AFL-CIO-supported product boycott of Farah pants on behalf of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) almost crippled the multi-million dollar Farah pants company. In 1972 alone, the boycott caused a \$14 million drop in the company's profits, forcing

it to close down several of its plants.

During that boycott workers and officials from AFL-CIO unions joined the picket lines and spoke out in favor of the boycott. The company signed a contract with the ACWA in March 1974.

AFL-CIO support for the UFW began in September of 1965 with the Great Delano Grape strike called first by the Federation's Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC).

On August 22, 1966, the two unions merged to become the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO. During the first grape boycott, which lasted from 1967 to 1970, assistance from many AFL-CIO unions helped inflict a loss on the growers, forcing them to sign union contracts.

On February 25, 1972, the AFL-CIO granted an official union charter to the then United Farm workers National Union. The granting of the charter was followed on May 9, 1973 by a \$1.6 million AFL-CIO grant to the UFW to conduct strikes against grower-Teamster contracts.

UAW gives \$100,000 to UFW strike fund



LOS ANGELES, California -- The United Auto Workers gave the UFW \$100,000 April 1 to support the union's activities this summer. Shown above is UAW Region 6 Director Jerry Whipple presenting the money to the UFW's National Executive Board in a ceremony in Los Angeles.

"We started ourselves in the same position as the farm workers," Whipple said, "and through the help of other unions at that time were able to build our union. Our membership feels we have a responsibility to help the farm workers who have been deprived of collective bargaining and the rights which other workers have."

Region 6 of the UAW has 95,000 active members and 40,000 retired members in nine states.

Whipple also said that delegates to the UAW's international convention being held in Los Angeles in early June would join farm workers on strike picket lines.



The \$100,000 UAW contribution, along with other donations of food and money, make it possible to keep UFW strikes going. Here, UFW strike organizer Manuel Chavez meets with picket crew in Coachella City Park to discuss strike strategy. For more details see page 7.

What really happened at Larson's

WORKERS BLAST PHONEY ELECTIONS

COACHELLA, Ca.—At the same time that it was negotiating a new contract "in good faith" with the United Farm Workers of America, the K.K. Larson Company held a "surprise" election March 21 in which, according to the company, its workers rejected UFW representation.

Larson said the election was conducted at the request of the workers by Father Richard Humphrys, a local priest. He said, 60 workers voted not to renew the existing UFW contract, 28 voted in favor of renewing the contract, and seven refused to vote.

"It was like being on trial with a prosecuting attorney but no defense lawyer," said Juan Perez, one of the workers who refused to participate in the vote. "I was there without any defense. Everyone had to come and vote, but why should I vote when we still have a contract?"

The Larson workers have been covered by a UFW contract since 1970. The contract expires April 15.

Long-time Larson worker Alfredo Lopez added, "The majority there voted in favor of the boss because they were afraid he wouldn't give them a job later. I'm sure of that."

Lopez also refused to participate in the election. "We needed a union representative there, but it was just the patron with his promises and each worker all by himself. That was the way Larson wanted it."

Unfair practices charged

In the days following the announcement of the election, local Teamster officials and growers were quick to assert that the results marked a major defeat for the UFW. Meanwhile, the UFW charged that the election was "so riddled with unfair labor practices that it can hardly be considered a legitimate test of the desires of the Larson workers" and prepared to sue Larson under California labor laws for interfering with the rights of the workers to organize.

"All the procedures that we were entitled to were violated," charged UFW attorney Sandy Nathan. "It wasn't an election, it was an absurdity, the most obvious form of employer interference with a labor union's rights."

Among the unfair practices which Nathan said would have outlawed this election under normal union election procedures were:

- No UFW representative was present to observe the election. The Union was not informed of the election even though its name appeared on the ballot. The election was held while the UFW still held a valid contract.

- No procedures were agreed upon by opposing parties and the neutral arbitrator of the contract, Rev. Lloyd Saatjian, was not notified of the election.

- Larson attempted to find out what the workers' attitudes were

before the election and made promises to them of the benefits they would receive if they voted against the UFW.

- Larson and his supervisors and foremen were within a very close distance of the people when they voted and he actually attempted to interfere physically with the voting process.

Setting the stage

Although Mr. and Mrs. Larson have stated publicly that the election was not planned until the night before it occurred, the facts suggest otherwise. One source who asked not to be identified reported that they were considering elections 2 or 3 weeks earlier.

On March 18, Mrs. Larson met with reporter Dick Lyneis of the Riverside Daily Enterprise at the Ramada Inn in Palm Springs. She showed him copies of the company's contract.

She then told Lyneis she was considering holding elections at the ranch and asked if he would supervise them. Lyneis flatly refused.

Mr. Larson told the workers March 19 he wanted them to write him a closed and confidential letter stating whether they preferred the UFW, the Teamsters, or no union at all.

According to Alfredo Lopez, few letters were written even though Larson "was very demanding with those of us who didn't want to give him the letter."

"At the same time," according to a sworn affidavit by twenty Larson workers, "Larson was suggesting that if the workers had no union at all, he would still pay them wages like under the UFW contract, but the workers would not have to pay dues,

and he would contribute all the money which he had paid to the UFW for benefits towards an insurance plan for the workers and still have money left over for a bonus."

Larson worker Jose David Perez later said, "Not many of us work here all year around--we are migrant workers. This company union may be good for the boss, but there is nothing to back it up. Who will stand up for the workers? What else is this idea but a promise? It is not a contract."

"I say that if there is no union it is no good," added Filimon Avilez. "They used to treat people really bad here. I think that there are many new people and they don't understand how they treated us before the contract. Without the union they can run you out without any reason."

Mrs. Larson denies ever having offered an insurance plan or a bonus or a company union. "We don't even carry insurance ourselves," she said.

(However, ten days after the election Larson foremen began circulating another paper for the workers to sign for health insurance paid for by the company. Jose David Perez also refused to sign this paper, saying "After a while I'll leave here and go work elsewhere, what good will this do me then? With the union the insurance follows me wherever I go." Mrs. Larson denies the existence of this paper also.)

A petition is circulated

Many of the Larson workers were worried by the Larsons' campaign in favor of a company union, and that evening, Alfredo



Grower K.K. Larson

Lopez made a phone call to UFW president Cesar Chavez and told him of the recent events at the ranch.

The next morning, an article by Lyneis appeared in the Riverside Press Enterprise reporting that the Larsons planned to negotiate with the UFW on the basis of the 1970 election in which the workers voted 78-2 for UFW.

The article quoted Mrs. Larson as saying they had considered holding elections and would do so

"if we got a petition from our workers."

As Larson tells it, the story was broadcast over the local Spanish radio station, prompting eight workers to come and ask that the company not sign with Chavez. Later that day, he said he was given a petition signed by 67 workers also asking Larson "not to sign with any union."

However, the workers report that the petition was actually circulated by a Larson forewoman named Gloria, who urged them to sign it.

"Gloria was telling the people that if there was no union the people would be free to work more than eight hours, that they could work on Sunday, and make as much money as they wanted," according to the affidavit of the twenty Larson workers.

Bad faith

That day Cesar Chavez arrived in Coachella to negotiate with the Larsons and confronted Mrs. Larson with what he had been told about the Larsons soliciting letters from the workers. Mrs. Larson denied it, but Chavez also told Rev. Lloyd Saatjian, the permanent arbitrator, what he had heard.

"I don't think so," Saatjian told Chavez. "They would have told me about it."

"I'll give them the benefit of the doubt," Chavez replied, "but I want you to know that if she's here in negotiations and they're over there trying to throw the union out, then she's negotiating in bad faith."

(Saatjian confirmed to El Malcriado that he had not been informed of the elections but said

Latest developments

Larson becomes a Teamster organizer

COACHELLA, Ca. - While the David Freedman, Inc. signed a new year long contract with UFW on April 15, Mrs. K. K. Larson announced to the press that she would begin negotiations with Teamster chief William Grami the following day. She reported that 83 of the total work force of 109 workers signed and submitted a petition requesting Teamster representation.

Once Larson cancelled the new election, he announced a card check-off election for April 15, to test the Teamster claim. The morning of the 15th the Larsons refused the card check plan and instead went solely on the basis of the Teamster petition, validated by a "hand writing expert".

The petition check came less than a week after UFW stewards Jose David Perez Sr. and Alfredo Lopez were fired from their jobs at Larson. Other workers reported that the week prior to the card check was marked by an

intensified campaign of harassment aimed at eliminating pro-UFW workers from the ranch and coercing the remainder into signing with Teamster petitions.

Although Larson publicly accepted UFW strike organizer Manuel Chavez' April 10 challenge to a new election, any hopes for such an election disappeared when Chavez went out to the ranch on April 12 to discuss ground rules with Larson.

"Let's make one thing perfectly clear," Larson told him, "I'm the employer here and I make all the ground rules."

Threats

Workers at the ranch report that a variety of threats were used to force people to sign the Teamster petitions, which were circulated by company supervisor Josephina Garcia. According to a sworn statement by Jesus Casarubias, Filimon Alvilez, and Raphael Perez, "In the past few days Larson has been trying to get all the people at this ranch to sign up with the Teamsters at his ranch."

Many have not signed because they do not want the Teamsters and Mr. Larson has just in these last few days tried to frighten these people into signing. He said that if we do not sign the petition for the Teamsters and if we go on strike and refuse to work under a Teamster contract, he will make sure that the Immigration comes and takes away our green cards and the green cards of our families."

(Green cards are special permits granted to Mexican citizens permitting them to live permanently in the United States.)

"He said that everybody who refuses to go along with his wishes to have the Teamsters will be sent back to Mexico," the statement continued. "He said he had talked with his attorney who said that this was right."

Larson himself could not be reached for comments on these charges, but Mrs. Larson denied every one of them. "I don't have any power over that," she said of

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UFW bill demands fair election rules

SACRAMENTO, Ca. — A secret ballot election bill is being considered in the California State Legislature which will insure that the maximum number of farm workers can participate in elections to choose their union, while still protecting their right to strike at harvest time and to boycott scab products.

The bill (AB3370) was drafted by the United Farm Workers of America in conjunction with the State Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, and is sponsored by Assemblymen Richard Alatorre, John Burton, John Foran, and Alex Garcia. Introduced on March 11, it now awaits hearings in the Assembly Labor Relations Committee.

The introduction of this bill follows a long string of grower-sponsored legislation in California, Oregon, and other states, which attempted to ban strikes and boycotts while limiting the number of farm workers who could participate in the elections. All of these bills were defeated, as was Proposition 22 in 1972, the most notorious of all grower-Farm Bureau attempts to cripple the election procedure for farm workers.

Sets secret ballot vote

The proposed legislation would establish a three member Agricultural Workers' Commission appointed by the governor, with one member representing the workers' interests, one the growers' interests, and one the public interest.

The Commission would hold an election at a ranch if half of the workers presented a petition during the peak harvest season demanding an election to prove they want a particular union to represent them. Other unions could get on the ballot by presenting the signatures of ten percent of the workers.

An election by secret ballot would then be held within seven days, with ballots in English, Spanish, and such other languages as Arabic, or Tagalog that the workers may speak. Symbols identifying the unions would also appear on the ballot for workers who could not read.

Eligibility for voting is determined by checking the grower's payroll for the payperiod preceding the election. The election must be held at the peak harvest season when the highest number of workers is present.

The union that wins the election is then certified by the Commission and the grower is obligated to bargain with it for a contract. A union must also be certified by the commission if half the workers at a ranch go on strike demanding representation by the union.

Furthermore, a contract signed by a grower with a union that has not been certified is illegal, and any dues collected under it must be returned to the workers. Any contracts signed before the bill goes into effect

are open to an election if the workers desire in order to determine their validity.

Teamsters oppose bill

The Teamsters oppose the bill, saying it would automatically void the grape and lettuce contracts, which they signed with growers without the workers' consent. (Actually, it allows the workers to vote the Teamsters out if they wish.)

"The beauty of this bill," said Cesar Chavez, "is that it protects the rights of the workers to strike and boycott. It also provides for fast elections where the greatest number of workers can vote.

"It also provides the growers with a simple means of determining which union their workers want. The growers can no longer say that they are caught in the middle of a 'jurisdictional

dispute' between two unions where they don't know who represents their workers. This bill provides a way for them to find out."

Unfair practices

The bill details specific unfair labor practices on the part of growers and unions which the Commission is responsible for preventing in order to insure a fair election.

Unions are guaranteed the right of access to workers in their homes and in the fields and labor camps, but are prohibited from using threats or intimidation to secure votes.

No union can participate in an election if it has been charged by the U.S. Equal Opportunities Commission with discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, or religion. Neither may a union accept money or support from the grower.

Fr. Humphrys under fire

Company priest defends growers

"You shouldn't be so hard on the grower, as if he was an evil, vicious man who is getting rich at the expense of the farm worker. If the rancher could pay higher wages he would. I have talked to many of them."

So said Fr. Humphrys several days after he supervised an election at the request of Coachella grape grower K.K. Larson. Since then, he has become the chief spokesman for Larson.

"Farm workers must consider that farm work isn't skilled, it is still common labor," said Fr. Humphrys. "And if you were to look at the wages of a busboy, or a gas station attendant, a motel domestic or a clerk, they don't receive \$3.00 an hour either.

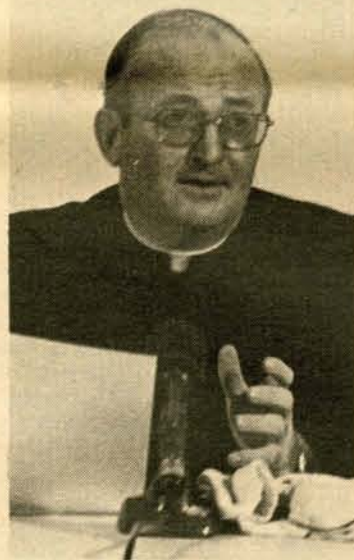
"We used to have an unlimited labor supply. It was just like when we brought the Chinese coolies. Even then it was terrible wages, but it was three or four times what they could have gotten back in their home countries."

At a press conference sponsored by the California Council of Growers and held in his church the day after the election Humphrys told reporters:

"Everyone says that secret ballot elections should be held and that we should let the workers speak for themselves. Yet, no one does anything about it. I decided to make a beginning.

Kicked strikers out

Most Coachella farm workers remember Fr. Humphrys as the priest who arrived at the height of the 1973 strike and kicked them out of their church. The strikers had been using the old parish kitchen to cook meals to take to the picket line and for an occasional meeting.



Fr. Richard Humphrys

"We kept it very neat and there were no problems or charge," said one striker, "but Fr. Humphrys changed all that."

Declaring that his church should remain neutral in the dispute, he convened the Church Council and it was decided that the kitchen would no longer be made available to the UFW and that future use of the building for meetings would cost them \$15.

"He said he was neutral" said Rosario Pelayo, another striker, "but we knew he was against us from the very beginning. Not once did he come to the picket line and see the atrocities of the Teamster goons."

Not a single mass

Before coming to Coachella in 1973 Fr. Humphrys served a church in Blythe in lettuce producing area, where he says he

"When you have the support of the workers, you don't have to cheat," Chavez said.

Growers, on the other hand, are prevented from interfering with the unions' rights to contact workers before an election or from supporting one union or another or inquiring of the workers what their preference is. In addition, they may not offer benefits or threaten reprisals such as loss of jobs to workers who support one union or another.

"Anyone familiar with industrial reality knows that the employer has tremendous control over the workers," Chavez said. "Experience shows that employer intimidation can take many forms, and so even the National Labor Relations Board has always demanded perfect conditions for elections to insure that the workers are not cheated.

"In agriculture these problems are even more serious for the

poor and vulnerable migrant farm workers where the slightest protest or refusal to cooperate can mean instant loss of job or home."

Under the provisions of this bill, workers at a ranch where a contract is already held by a union may petition for an election to prove that the union no longer represents them."

These "decertification" elections however, must be held with the same eligibility and protection of rights as the "certification" elections.

"I don't think the Larsen election could have been held under this bill," said Assemblyman Alatorre, "because the bill establishes a commission that isn't slanted one way or the other to run the elections. That way a neutral body would run the elections and not a priest who is an avowed opponent of Cesar Chavez."

"first became acquainted with farm issues."

"Father Humphrys here in Blythe was anti-chicano, anti-Union and anti-our Raza Unida School," says activist Alfredo Figueroa. He denied the use of the parish hall, nor did he ever offer a single mass for the chicano community. We always had to bring in an outside priest.

Humphrys left Blythe in July of 1973. "I think he left because of the extreme pressure and loss of attendance of the chicano community" says Figueroa. "He really caused chaos in our church, and it's barely calming down now."

Pro-grower report

Earlier in 1974 Humphrys issued a report entitled, "The Farm Labor Issue: A Searching for the Truth," which concludes that the Teamsters acquired their contracts in the Coachella grapes by just means. The report draws heavily from information supplied by Coachella growers.

"I am also for a just and fair presentation of the growers side of the issues," says, "a side I think has been badly stated."

Msgr. George G. Higgins, chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Farm Labor, found the report "heavily slanted against the UFW, and in favor of the Teamsters."

Fr. Humphrys is bitter about the support given to the grape and lettuce boycotts by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"No matter how they (the growers) got the Teamsters in,

there they are," he says, "I talk with members of my church and they say they are happy. Then the Church comes out against the Teamsters and it is rather embarrassing."

Under attack

Since the election two high-ranking Catholic laymen have attacked Humphrys actions. "We have testimony from farm workers," they said, "of the illegality of the whole procedure, because of intimidation, impropriety and fraudulent methods."

Leo Loera, of Riverside, who is vice chairman of the Synodal; Mexican-American Commission on the San Diego Catholic Diocese and Sister Sara Murieta of San Diego charged in a letter to the Bishop of San Diego that Father Humphrys "has misrepresented his brother priests who were working along with him in research and formulating a comprehensive approach to a solution to the problem."

Bishop Maher responded to Fr. Humphrys activities by telling him only bishops can issue public statements on the farm labor controversy.

Asked about these and other charges, Humphrys told EL MALCRIADO, "It's utterly ridiculous to say that I'm a company priest. I never put my foot down in that ranch before the election. I want very much to be commenting on these attacks, but I don't want to go in direct opposition to my bishop."

El Malcriado then asked Humphrys if he ever spoke out against the injustices done against farm workers in the same way he does about growers. "I was in seminary back then," he answered.

'WE HAVE A DATE WITH JUSTICE'

The members of the National Executive Board of the UFW travelled to Coachella April 1 to meet with striking grape workers on the picket line at the Bagdasarian Ranch. Later in the city park in Coachella, the Board members delivered brief reports on their work on the boycott and elsewhere in the union.

Cesar, president:

We're here because we want you to know that we are as concerned as you about our union, we're here because we want to share with you our solidarity....

We've been in deliberations and discussions with the executive board for three days now, talk-



Cesar Chavez

ing about the strikes and the money and the sacrifice and the organizing and all those things that go into making a strike successful.

As we talked this over we flashed back to last year, and two and three and four years ago, and the whole history of the union, all of the great love and sacrifices, all of your jailings and beatings, the great fear that exists when the police and the goons begin to beat you and your families up and the loss of income and the uncertainty of what may happen tomorrow.

All these great sacrifices and courage give us the determination to continue. And we are here today because we want to be near you, to have your spirit touch our spirit so we can continue. As you go about the strike in Coachella, the executive board has to go back to Canada and rest of the U.S. They'll take with them a part of that spirit which will then be multiplied when they get back to their people and as they continue their work.

We came to tell you that we have gotten some money, not a lot of money, but enough so that we won't starve. But we'll have 20, 30, 40, 50, times the number of people we have here today, like last year, so we can go out and renew our commitment to justice, to do it nonviolently, to respect life, and show the growers and the Teamsters and the goons that we are human beings and we care for them even though they may not care for us.

We have made a date with justice and it doesn't matter what is



Gilbert Padilla

in the way, it doesn't matter what the obstacles are—time, effort, money, sacrifice, nothing is going to take us away from that date with justice....

Gilbert Padilla, sec.-treasurer, Washington, D.C. boycott director:

We're very happy to be here with you, and we're going to go back east and stop the grapes, thank you.

Dolores Huerta, first vice-president, New York boycott:

Last year we were really able to boycott the Coachella grapes. We got all the chain stores with the exception of A&P and one other one to boycott all but Lionel Steinberg's grapes, and K. K. Larsen's grapes, so the growers lost a lot of money here in Coachella and we know that the Boycott really affected them.

But we had just a very few people on the boycott last year, for example Oscar Mondragin here who was with the strikers of



Dolores Huerta

D'Arrigo from Calexico, but this year we have more people out there, a lot more strikers.

They've been out there picketing in the snow, out in front of the stores every day and talking, so we know we have a lot more strength. So while you are out here on the picket line with the flag, you can know that your brothers and sisters are out there on the boycott, every day on the picket line, so we know that together we are really going to smash the growers this year.... Que viva la causa!!

Phillip Vera Cruz, second vice-president:

I just want to remind you that this is a poor people's struggle, it is our own struggle.... The struggle that we have today is just the continuation of (the struggle) your fathers and your

grandfathers and your great-grandfathers.

It is a long process and too much time and money has already been spent and people have been killed in this movement and in our own movement since 1965. We know that there are already two killed. So we cannot afford to give it up now, and it is a sign of the changing times now that the people who are here today with us, because we have the best intentions, we want to help all people who are poor and we need the organization we are building.

And so therefore don't forget that all the time and effort and money and lives that are spent in this struggle are for the liberation of my people and your people and all poor people

Pete Velasco, third vice-president, Baltimore boycott director:

I was here in 1969, and we have fought together we won contracts



Phillip Vera Cruz

here in 1970. We are here today to let the growers know that we are going to win back the contracts that were stolen away from us. We are going to have to be together. When I go back to Baltimore I will see to it that I do my darndest best to see that all the grapes that come to Baltimore will rot.

Mack Lyons, executive board member, Florida UFW director:

I haven't been here in Coachella since 1969, but during that time I got the same feeling that I got here today from the people on the picket line. And that feeling is not the feeling of "if we are going



Pete Velasco

to win" but "when we are going to win"....

Down in Florida the union membership is very much aware of what's going on up here because they know that if we lose the union out here then we might



Mack Lyons

as well forget about it in Florida, and they ain't about to forget about the union in Florida. And there's no way that they are going to let the people here starve.

The union membership and the people that's working on the boycott down in Florida, they have already said that they could raise enough money, they know strikes aren't easy, but they have promised to raise enough money to feed you for at least two or three weeks during the strike, and that's just for one place.

When I go back to Florida, I'm going to be telling the people that they don't have to be concerned about you guys giving up, because you guys can take whatever the growers throw at you.

I don't have to speak Spanish to know that—it's just something that you naturally know from be-



Eliseo Medina

ing around people like you that's so dedicated and I'm really happy to be working in Florida on the boycott—we don't have any grapes in Florida and I'm pretty sure that we ain't going to get any!

Eliseo Medina, executive board member, Ohio boycott director:

I bring you greetings from the people of Ohio—we have boycott offices in six cities and volunteer committees in fifteen more. We think that if the growers thought that they had a rough time last year they haven't seen nothing yet. This year they are going to have a hell of a time selling the grapes.

And if you are willing to strike and if you are willing to struggle, the people of Ohio I am sure will back you up all the way and what

we have to do is build a pincer movement—on one side the boycott and on the other, the strikes!

And then, we just have to make it so tight that the growers recognize that there has to be one union, not only in the grapes but in the lettuce and the wine, a union of farm workers and not a union of growers like they have now. And if you stick it out, we'll stick it out for as long as it takes.

Richard Chavez, executive board member, New York boycott director:

... I want to assure you that we're going to win this strike, and it's going to be won because there's a lot of support all over, not only in the United States but in Canada and Europe, everywhere that I have been.

People from the labor unions, people from the churches, stu-

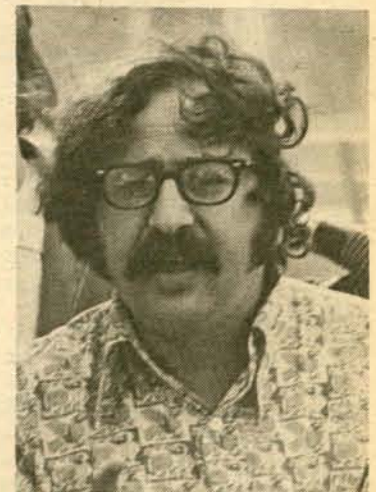


Richard Chavez

dents, housewives, everybody's pitching in.

When they (the Teamsters) claim to have 2 million members, that phony two-headed union, well, we have about 20 million with all the support that we have, and I know we are going to win. You keep it up and do your job here in the fields and we will do our jobs in the cities. Viva la causa!

Marshall Ganz, executive board member, Canadian boycott director:



Marshall Ganz

We're very happy to be back here in Coachella because last year there was a strike here in this Valley and this park like there has never been. We fought

(continued on page 15)

COACHELLA STRIKERS RENEW FIGHT TO WIN BACK STOLEN CONTRACTS

COACHELLA, Ca. -- Farm workers are back on the picket lines in the Coachella Valley despite threats of violence, grower injunctions, police harassment and a reported \$100,000-a-month Teamster organizing campaign bent on eliminating the UFW.

Strike action began March 17 with a mile-and-a-half long car

As the strike progressed and the labor shortage put more pressure on the growers many picketers reported a large percentage of the scabs are being brought from Mexico illegally.

"There are many illegals here," Javier Campos told EL MALCRIADO, "Right here in Mecca there is not a house that

terfaith Committee of the Methodist Church in San Diego.

Even more affected by the strike are the farm workers who continued to cross the picket lines. On March 25 a farm worker who had been working under Teamster contract, Tomas Hernandez, came into the UFW field office and told Carlos Fierros, "Weeks ago when the suckering

the edge of the field fighting him, and it would have looked bad for me to have gone over to you.

"But when he saw that you all left he told me, 'if you come to work for me tomorrow, I don't want to see you sit down or even stand still one moment. I want to see you work like you're running, and if you don't, you won't work.'"

In late March many strikers were telling the scabs, "We may be few picketers here, but there are thousands of brothers and sisters on our boycott across the entire nation."

On April 1, the nine members of the the UFW National Executive Board, most from boycott assignments throughout the U.S. and Canada, joined the picket line.

Accompanied by 40 Union staff from La Paz, the UFW officers helped picket at the Bagdasarian Ranch.

At the rally that followed in the Coachella Park, UFW President Cesar Chavez declared his "solidarity with the Coachella workers" and vowed that the Union will "strike and boycott" the Coachella Valley table grape growers of California "until we get all our contracts back."

Cheers welcomed Chavez report of the new UFW contract with Almaden.

He also announced the Unions efforts to raise funds so that strike benefits would be available in the near future.

During the meeting Coachella City Police cited the rally as illegal and issued Carlos Fierros a \$50 fine for meeting without a permit, the second citation given him since the strike began.

Cesar Chavez criticized Coachella Police Chief Charles Christman, and called the citation,

"one more kind of harassment we have to put up". He said if necessary, all the non-violent farm workers would go to jail. There were no arrests.

After weeks of constant picket line activity strikebreakers began to respond and leave the vineyards.

On April 3 Oscar Vega and David Gonzalez left the Carian Ranch that was being picketed and joined the huelga.

"They were robbing us," Oscar Vega explained to the strikers. "We were getting paid 20 cents a vine for taking off the leaves, but the Teamster contract says 40 cents. So we all made a 'Mini-paro' (mini-work stop page) with the rest of the workers to ask for the 40 cents."

"Then Carian, the 'machine,' came and said 'No I'm paying only 5 cents more. If you don't like it, get the hell out!'"

"So when we saw the flags we decided to join, because there is no protection with the Teamsters. All they told us was to sign or there would be no work for us."

On April 4 four more strikebreakers joined the strike at the Valdora Company. One of them, Francisco Garcia, had had over \$100 deducted against his will from his weekly pay check; \$23 for Teamster dues and "insurance". (See graphic below.)

When they made me sign the card they told me it was to get my check," he said, "Then the Teamsters took \$23 from me, but I never gave them authorization."

He said that in the Valdora Camp where he stayed for \$19 a week there was a leaky gas stove in his room and mattresses that were not fit to sleep on. Also, he said the company sometimes sent its workers to work without breakfast.



Teamster organizer Robert Hernandez and friends stand guard over the property of Coachella growers.

caravan that visited numerous labor camps in Mecca, Thermal and surrounding areas. At the camps huelga flags appeared from windows, doors and parked cars to greet the strikers.

Picketing began the following day at the Melikian Ranch. About 100 enthusiastic pickets sang and talked to strikebreakers, who slowed down to listen.

"The workers are helping us by going so slow," said striker Phillip Romero. "I've seen the bosses fire whole crews for working this slow, but they don't dare since we're here."

Later that morning Teamster organizers Johnny "Yellow Gloves" Macias, Robert Hernandez and Lizardo Rodriguez arrived on the scene and hurried into the fields to get the strikebreakers' signatures on their Teamster authorization cards, which they did wherever the strikers went.

After an hour of constant pressure from the picket line, the Teamsters gave the slow-moving workers a 23-minute break, while the picket line cheered on.

At one of the ranches, Mike Alvarez, a foreman, responded to the picket line by taking dollar bills from his pockets, kissing them, and holding them above his head as he ran up and down the grape rows yelling "see how much money farmworkers make."

doesn't have two or three and every day more arrive."

Coachella farm workers explain there is a complicated network of labor contractors and "coyotes" who bring Mexican farm workers without papers from the border 100 miles away and smuggle them into dozens of run-down labor camps in the Coachella area. From there they are taken by the contractors to the fields and orchards under Teamster contracts to break the strike.

In the days that followed the small but constant pressure of the strike began to affect the lives of all farm workers in the Val-

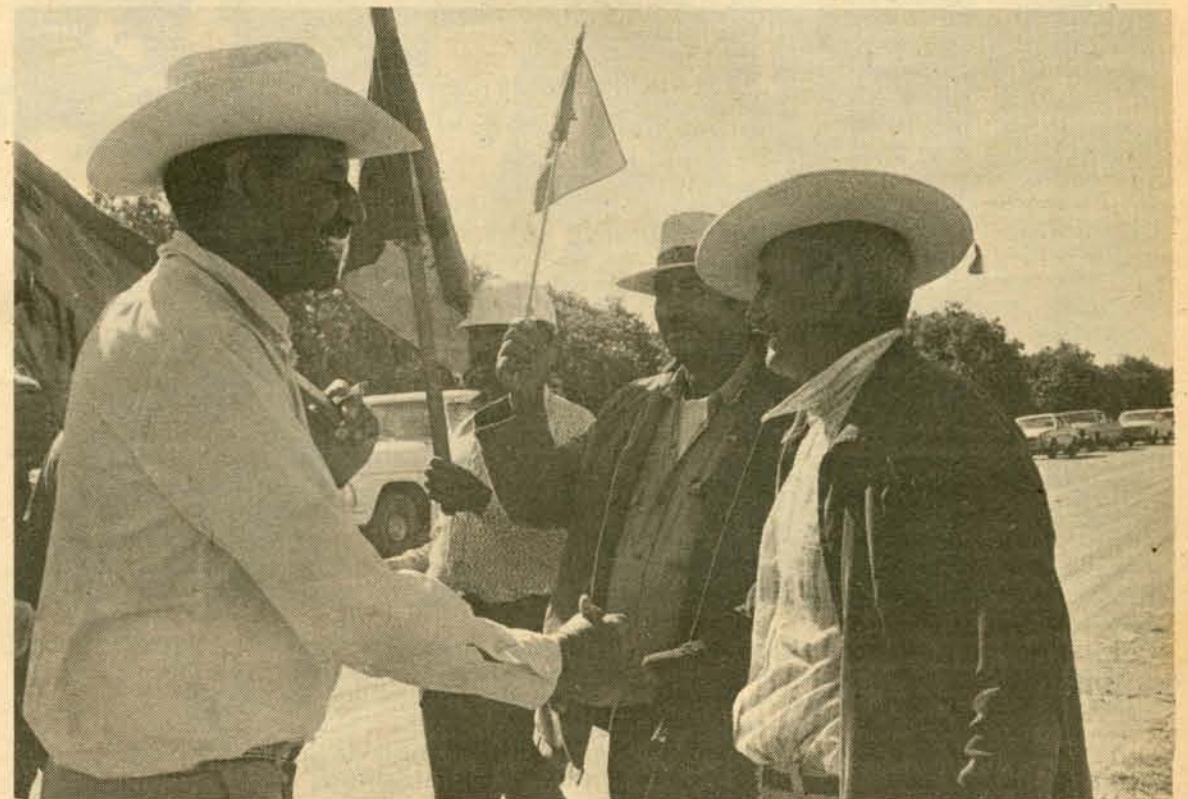
Strikers, entire families, made great sacrifices. "This Union doesn't run on money," Field Office Director Carlos Fierros told the strikers one afternoon, "but on the vision of our people. The Teamsters are after money, but we ask for dignity."

And as striker Chayo Pelayo passed around tacos among fellow strikers, she grinned widely saying, "We'll get along as long as we have a bit of flour and beans."

The flour and beans and canned goods started to come into Coachella in the days that followed. Food caravans arrived from the Orange County boycott, from the Support Committee at San Jose State and from the In-

began I went and talked to the foreman I was working for the last year.

"He told me to take a seat and relax myself. Why? Because you strikers were right there on



Striker Jesus Garcia (left) greets three farm workers after they walked out of a Valdora Produce Co. field April 3 and joined the strike.

Strike will lower grape quality

COACHELLA, Ca. -- As the thinning season began in the grapes here in mid-March, grape growers with Teamster contracts are facing a shortage of workers and a boycott that one of them describes as "more effective than ever before."

UFW members who live in the Indio Labor Camp, largest in the Coachella Valley, say there are many new faces in the camp this year. Most of the veteran grape workers have not returned, they report.

"While the flags are out they won't come back," one said, because even though they are too poor to join us, they will not break the strike."

The labor shortage will get worse as the season progresses, said Gil Kostoll, statistician for the Human Resources Development Agency in Indio. As the thinning in the grapes began, he said, the labor force was already down 100, and in another month there will be a shortage of "about 4-500 workers."

Kostoll said he thinks that the memory of last year's violence is the main cause of the shortage. I think they're afraid of getting hurt. That's human nature," he said.

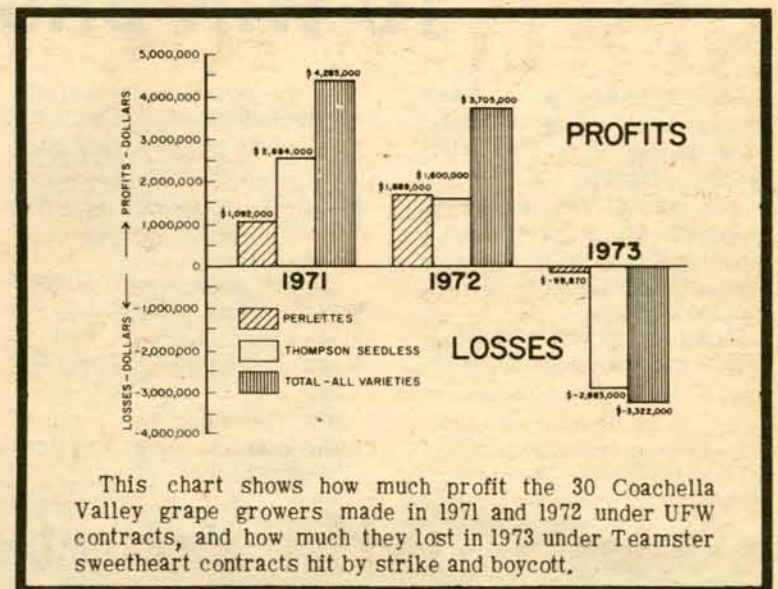
Anticipating a shortage of workers, the growers reportedly sent recruiters to Texas and Mexico beginning in January to find people to come to work. And it is widely reported in Coachella and Calexico that a net work has been established to bring workers across the Mexican border illegally to work in the grapes.

The lack of experienced workers is expected to have an immediate effect on the quality of the grapes. Preharvest work called thinning, is now taking place, where 90% of the grape growth is removed from the vines so that the remaining bunches grow large and full. If the thinning is done poorly, the bunches that grow will be crowded, causing bunch-rot, which ruins the quality of the grapes.

"The people in there working are too busy watching the flags and listening to the bullhorns to do their work well," said UFW Coachella field office director Carlos Fierros. "And as always happens during a strike, the supervisors will not fire anyone for poor work because they need the workers."

Coachella Valley growers lost \$3 million last year after profits of \$4 million in each of the previous two years under UFW contract. Tons of grapes were left unpicked, and even more were taken out of storage and dried on the runway of an abandoned airport nearby to make raisins.

A source close to the growers, who asked to remain anonymous, reports that the growers plan to divert as much as 20% of the harvest for use in wine grapes, raisins, and canning. John Giumarra of the largest grape grower in the state, reportedly presented the idea to his fellow growers in December of last year, receiving support from



Tenneco, the largest grape grower in the Coachella area.

Coachella grower Ralph Melikian is expected to make use of his brothers raisin dehydrator in Fresno.

Table grapes, however, bring roughly \$2700 a ton, while raisins make only \$750 a ton, also, as one worker in Coachella remarked, "even raising grapes have to be thinned and picked."

Growers, Teamsters start scare campaign

COACHELLA, Ca. -- Teamster organizers and foremen are busy in Coachella Valley creating an atmosphere of fear and terror by means of rumors, lies and threats charge Coachella farm workers.

The following letter was mailed to a farm worker who resides in the Indio Labor Camp:

"We know that you talk a lot against the Tintos (Teamsters) and that you say that only Chavez will win. Well you better cut that shit out if you don't want something to happen to your daughter

when she is leaving school or wherever she is. So watch out.

First warning

"I don't want them to steal her from me," the distraught father told El Malcriado, "she's the only child I have." After he received the threat March 19, he went to the UFW office in Coachella and was accompanied to the Indio Police Dept. where he filed a complaint.

There Detective Carl Kennedy said, "I hope that there will be

no more incidents like this one this year, but I won't be surprised if there are."

On March 17 the night before the strike began, a fire-bomb burned down a barracks at a labor camp belonging to grower Harry Carian. Nine men were inside the building at the time, but none were hurt. Teamster officials, including William Grami Jr., were on the scene and later made statements to the press implicating the United Farm Workers for the violence.

The following day Grami told reporters, "You know, I got worker's statements that say they believe it was the United Farm Workers."

But one of the nine, Luis Martinez later told El Malcriado that they made no such statements.

"We can't blame anyone because we saw neither the car nor anyone" he said. "What the Teamsters ought to investigate is why we have no electricity here at the camp."

While pro-union families received similar threats by mail later in the week, labor contractors and foremen circulated among families in the labor camps urging them to take up arms against the "Chavistas."

"They are telling the strike-breakers to get guns," reported UFW member Luis Gonzalez, who lives in the Indio Labor Camp. "A contractor named Mariano Gomez and a foreman named Juan Yanez are going around to my neighbors and saying that the Teamsters are organized and have rifles and shotguns. They tell them, 'If we would have known that a few dead strikers would stop Chavez, we would have killed a couple of them from the beginning last year.'"

Similar threats are frequently heard in the fields as well. Striker Filiciano Ytom reported that on March 19, Simon Matias, foreman, told him that the strikers had better not come near his crew because they all had pis-

tols and would shoot the strikers.

And Thomas Hernandez reported "a foreman for the Harry Carian ranch by the name of Simon told his crew of 14 that he had multiple firing rifles he would use on UFW strikers if the strikers passed over the divider line on the road near the vineyard. He also said an American (Anglo) policeman said that if the workers used their pistols, the police wouldn't bring them to court or anything."

Another threat came during the first week in April. UFW striker Julian Garcia said Teamster organizers Manuel Alvarado and Lazaro Rodriguez told him, "Well, you guys better watch out. You know what happened when we burned the truck of Tereso Rendon. You better watch out or it could happen to your car too."

The Teamster scare campaign could be the prelude to a wave of violence similar to the one launched by hundreds of \$60-a-day Teamster goons last year, even though Teamster lawyers have agreed to obey a permanent injunction requiring goons to stay 60 feet away from strikers and Teamster leader William Grami says there would be no more "armed guards"



Arnold Erickson, Karen Flock, and Victor Gonzalez of the Orange County (Los Angeles) Boycott committee, shown here with Coachella Field Office Director Carlos Fierros (left) and strikers at the field office, arrived March 26 with the first food donations of the 1974 strike. The food was collected by the members of the First Methodist Church of Santa Ana in Orange County. Later that day, Gonzalez, second from right, was among a group of ten picketers arrested for violating an injunction.

"This is a beginning for us," said a striker, "It is proof that we have support, a demonstration of support from our brothers and sisters in the struggle. VIVAN LOS FRUJOLES!"

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Kern County D.A. organizes statewide court conspiracy

BAKERSFIELD, Ca.— Law enforcement officials from agricultural counties throughout California held a series of meetings in late March aimed at "standardizing" anti-picketing injunctions and arrest procedures against UFW strikers this summer.

The effect of the procedures worked out in these recent meetings will be to transfer from the

growers to the district attorneys of each county the responsibility for prosecuting farm workers for civil contempt of court for violating injunctions.

There is no jury trial in civil contempt cases. Ten strikers have already been arrested in a Coachella under these procedures.

UFW General Counsel Jerry Cohen charges the procedures

make "the D.A. into the private attorney for the growers."

The four meetings held during the past two months were organized by Albert Leddy, District attorney for Kern County, the man who supervised the arrest of hundreds of UFW strikers last summer and refused to prosecute sheriffs who attacked picketers.

Leddy said the meetings were designed to eliminate the mass

arrests of last year and make the situation easier for everyone.

Cesar Chavez, however, labelled Leddy's efforts "an open conspiracy to pervert justice" aimed at "strengthening the legal shackles he is foregoing against farm workers."

"There is a lot of talk about people going around armed with chains, clubs, and other weapons. But there is no cavalry of jus-

tice being formed to prevent violence, outlawry and the threat of life. Instead, Leddy is improving the means to jail the victims and protect the oppressors," Chavez charged.

The last of the four meetings took place in Bakersfield on March 21. Judges, district attorneys, and sheriff's officers from as observers, angrily denounced the meeting as illegal and reminded the participants that the entire concept of standardized injunctions was an unconstitutional attack on farm workers rights of free speech and free assembly.

"Any court order affecting those First Amendment rights must be tailored to meet a specific situation," Cohn told the group, "and so you cannot possibly write an injunction that can fit every situation all over California."

Meetings

The meetings among law enforcement officials began last January in Palm Springs, near Coachella, where high-ranking sheriffs' officers met to discuss last year's strikes.

On February 6, Leddy wrote a letter to the presiding judges of all the major agricultural counties asking them to submit all the injunctions they issued last summer so that a standard injunction could be written "as a means of prevention."

A second meeting was held in Fresno several weeks later of police officers in charge of field operations, where the standard arrest affidavit was worked out. The final two meetings in Bakersfield March 18 and 21 included law enforcement personnel on all levels.

Meanwhile, Imperial County Sheriff Oren Fox has reported to the county's Board of Supervisors that his office is establishing a "regional enforcement team" with four other southern California counties to send men and equipment to strike areas "in order to alleviate the strain on any one county's sheriff department."

Kern, Riverside, San Luis Obispo, Tulare, and Fresno counties, along with Teamster and grower lawyers, gathered at the Hill House to discuss a standard injunction and arrest form that had been worked out at the previous meetings.

Outside, a picket line of more than 100 farm workers chanted "CHAVEZ SI! Teamster no!" "Boycott Gallo!" and "We want our contracts back!"

Inside, UFW legal staff members, who attended the meeting

During last year's strikes, growers obtained over 60 injunctions against striking farm workers which led to the arrest of nearly 4000 strikers who disobeyed the orders. The UFW labeled the injunctions clearcut effort by the growers to use the courts to break the strikes.

Anti-strike court plan fails first test

COACHELLA, Ca. -- The speedy-arrest plan organized by Kern County District Attorney Albert Leddy failed its first tests as criminal and civil charges against ten UFW pickets were dropped.

The pickets were arrested March 26 by the Bagdasarian Ranch and charged with "civil violation of a court injunction" and held for 7 1/2 hours by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in Indio, until they were released without bail.

UFW attorney Sandy Nathen was furious when he arrived at the jail after the arrests. He told officer Froeming of the Sheriff's Dept., "This civil violation is just another way of running us around, making us wait to get people out. We're not going to have anything to do with these games you play." Froeming did not reply.

Meanwhile, 150 strikers picketed outside the jail in protest to the illegal arrests. Each time that the front doors of the Sheriff's Dept. were opened shouts of "VIVA LA HUELGA!" swept into the building noticeably upsetting the employees inside.

On the day of the arrests 80 strikers were picketing on both sides of the road between the Bagdasarian and Melikian ranches, as is permitted by the injunction, if work is being done on both sides of the road. Melikin supervisor Herbiikian rushed to the spot and asked sheriff's deputies, "Can you get these guys outa here?"

Then Nick Bozick, general manager of Bagdasarian, arrived on the scene. He saw the strikers talking to an irrigator in his field and sent the irrigator away. Several strikers saw the irrigator go around to the back of the vineyard and hide, but Bozick rushed to the deputies and told them to start the arrests, saying his field was empty, and thus the picketers were violating the injunction.

Arrested were Carlos Fierros (Field Office Director), Esteban Hernandez, Victor Gonzalez (from the Orange County Boycott), Jose Meigordo Sanchez, Marcellino Angeles, Refugio Cardenas, Lupe Cabazos, Laura Tovar, Geliberto Reyes and his mother, Dominga Reyes.



Marcelino Angeles shouts, "Viva la Causa" as he is booked by Riverside County Sheriff's deputies on March 26.

Delano-Arvin-Lamont

Mass marches rally support, picket lines hit vineyards

A heated argument between grape growers in the Lamont area highlighted the first weeks of picketing by the striking United Farm Workers in the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley.

"It's your fault, you told us we wouldn't have any trouble if we signed with the Teamsters," were the words William D. Moseian hurled at John Kovacevich after UFW picket lines pulled 30 strike breakers from his fields April 4. "I'm losing a lot of money," he said.

This exchange was witnessed by over 100 UFW strikers who began picketing March 25. Moseian is one of several small grape growers who apparently feels large growers like Kovacevich, Roberts Farms, Tenneco and Guimarra bullied them into signing with the Teamsters in 1973.

Two days later the pickets

moved from the Lamont area to Porterville to join over 600 farm workers in a march through the town. It was the sixth in a series of farm worker marches drawing 600 to 1000 people each time.

The first march took place in Delano, followed by marches each Wednesday in McFarland, Wasco, Earlimart, Richgrove and Porterville. More are scheduled.

"These marches raise the spirits of farm workers, said UFW organizer Lupe Murguia, "and show the growers and the Teamsters that we are still here and will give them hell this summer."

After a Salinas judge issued a statewide injunction limiting pickets at liquor stores to four in March, the boycott efforts of the UFW were restricted.

"In the stores where we boycotted you could see very few pic-

kets, and so people would say that our Union was on the way down," said Murguia. "Then, we had a meeting and the idea came up to make these marches like we did in earlier years, so that the people would come out and identify with the movement."

Not everyone is happy about the marches. During the march in Porterville, a Teamster who hauls for Gallo Wineries, Inc., told EL MALCRIADO:

"This year is the last stand of Chavez-- the dirty Mexican! He won't be left standing in a year from now. No one is supporting him and these tactics he's using now went out of style four years ago."

During the farm worker march in Richgrove April 3, an automobile side-swept the marchers at 40 miles an hour nearly strik-

(continued on page 10)

Farm worker tells why he strikes

'I have suffered all my life'

Why do farm workers strike? Why do they risk injury, insults and threats of violence on the picket lines and in their homes. Why do they have the patience to shout across the vineyards from early morning to late afternoon, until feet are tired and voice is gone? Manuel Vargas explains why from the Coachella picket line:

I am on strike because I have suffered all my life. I started working at the age of 8 or 9 years.... I've worked since 1934. I have been abused and mistreated by the foremen, pushed hard by the foremen. I grew up, I've opened my eyes and know what is going on. That's why I'm fighting for La Causa.

That's why I love La Causa and to let all those people, those elderly persons, and the youth who are working (as strikebreakers), who have not suffered as much or whose parents never told them about how they suffered before.

A worker had to take off his hat to be able to talk to the foreman. And they still try to play on fear of the grower, the foremen. And many are still used to that system. They still try to keep us scared of the grower.

They say, "Come, come to work here. You are here to work, not to stand around. Here you have to work. You don't come here to be lazy." So my kidneys and back are worn out from working with the short-handled hoe in this valley.

I'm not getting strike benefits, but I love to come to fight for our movement in order to teach my children, and youth in general, what I have been saying, that the growers want us to go on suf-

fering, with a yoke around our necks.

I feel joy and pride that with our union people no longer say, "Oh, there comes the boss! Bend

down!" Instead, people say, "There come the Union organizers." And there the growers shaking with fear, not knowing what to do.

And now I am sacrificing, teaching and explaining how we suffered before the Union came, how our parents and our grandparents suffered. We were humiliated all the time. The

wouldn't open our eyes, so we wouldn't know how to defend ourselves. Growers would say very frankly, "I don't want lawyers.... What I want are workers who know how to work." That's why they used us from the ages of 8 or 9, to work like adults.

But do you know what they (the growers) wanted? They did not want us to go to school so we

selves.... But they are not going to be able to do that anymore. That's why we are making the sacrifices and fighting for La Causa.

And in the large cities, there are a lot of sisters and brothers who know La Causa, who know suffering, who have a generous heart.... are helping in one way or another.

We are stirring things up in the valley, bugging the growers like flies, but the principal effort is the boycott. Here, we are slowing production, so that it won't grow correctly.

The boycotters are our best supporters.

Without their help, we would gain nothing with our shouts in the fields. But we must fight harder here so that the boycotters will be stronger. We give each other strength, that's the only way we are going to win.

Mass marches rally support

(continued from page 9)

ing two small boys. The car was stopped and its driver detained by marchers until police arrived. Then the enraged driver slugged Lupe Murguia in the face saying he would "kill Cesar Chavez if he were here."

"The Teamsters are also very worried by the marches," said Murguia. "They run up and down taking pictures, not believing it, because they saw so many workers they thought were Teamster members."

Back in the vineyards of Lamont and Delano Teamster officials appeared to be equally nervous. Farm workers reportedly ran labor contractor and Teamster hiring Pancho Mendoza out of a field in Delano when he tried to sign up workers.

"People are waking up," said Lamont Field Office Director Pablo Espinosa. "They have gotten the spirit to be strong in the fields and demand more from the Teamsters. The growers are feeling the pressure because they know that many of their workers are strikers and that they will not put up with injustices any longer."

The picket lines are scoring some successes. In addition to the 30 workers who walked out at Mosesian April 4, pickets estimate that close to 12 workers joined the strike each day.

On April 16, organizer Lupe Murguia took the newly-signed Almaden contract (See related article on page 16) to the picket line and read it to the scabs at the Kovacovich ranch.

"A lot of people started to come out," said Murguia later, "and Thompson, one of the foremen, started to run back and forth from one edge to the other saying to the workers, 'Don't believe him, don't leave the fields, please. Don't leave the fields!' He ran like crazy and then went to get a bullhorn and told his workers, 'It doesn't matter if you work slow, don't leave the fields.'"



UFW picket Manuel Vargas talks to farm workers who until the day before were working in the fields under Teamster contract.

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'With the Union it is a new era in our lives'

In Coachella is a group of men who have worked the crops for more than forty years, since the time they came to the U.S. from the Philippines in search of jobs. Over those years they have seen the worst days in the lives of farm workers as well as the coming of better times.

Fred Abad, now vice-president of the UFW ranch committee at Freedman, came to the U.S. in 1929 when he was sixteen. He went to work harvesting onion seeds near San Jose for 25¢ an hour.

"We lived in the camps," he says, "where everyone was a

organized and demand better wages.

"I remember there was a strike in Salinas sometime in the early 30's where the Teamsters were trying to organize the packing shed workers and also the farm workers. But when the shed was organized they left the farm workers unorganized and I don't see why they did that.

"They weren't interested in us then, but they are now because we're organized. They are what I call union-busters."

Claro Runtal also remembers the many efforts Filipinos made to organize against the growers. "Once we won a strike against all the asparagus growers in Stockton in one day."

Runtal began working in the grapes in 1934, Fred Abad in 1937, and Bob Armington in 1935.

"I lived in the camp of Marco Zaninovich since 1946," says Fred Abad, "until we went on strike in 1965."

It is with the Delano strike of 1965 that they began to live a different life, he said. "We knew it wouldn't be easy to strike, but we did anyway, we stayed in the camp.

"Then one day they cut off the water, then the electricity, and then in another two days the gas, and we had to cook outside. Then they padlocked the doors and we had to sleep under the trees.

"I told Marco that the camp wasn't his alone, that it belonged partly to the workers because we



Bob Armington

who lived there were paid ten cents an hour less. He didn't say anything.

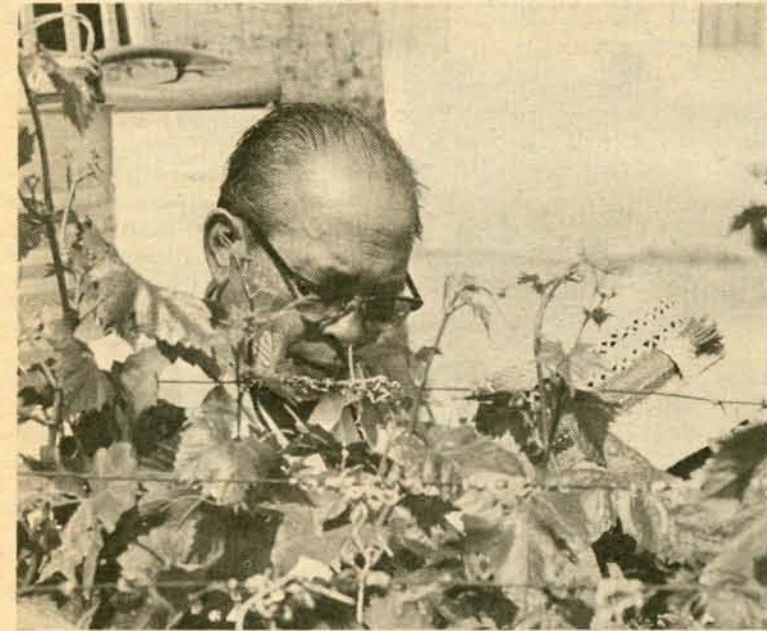
"We've worked hard to build what we have," says claro Runtal "but at least we know we have showed the poor working people all over the world that we have a high spirit.

"On the picket line I try to explain to the scabs that our lives are better because of the union. Many nights I do not sleep, thinking, trying to see what is

the key, the key so that I can open their minds. I am not educated but once I start talking to them about this I cannot stop."

"Who demanded higher wages from the growers? We did because we are organized! You are hard workers like we are," I say to them, "but your children will have to work under these harsh conditions if we don't change it."

"But how can we change it if we aren't united?"



Claro Runtal

"With our work we have supported the growers and we have supported the communities," says Freedman worker Claro Runtal, who is nearly 70. "We have supported the whole country, but what did we get for it? We got the lowest wages in the country.

"But now with the union is it our time, it is a new era in our lives, it is our time to sing."

Filipino. We had to stay there, there was no place else to go. I didn't really know what was going to happen to me when I came, but it was easy to come over and I heard you could make good money.

"In 1933 there was no pay day," Bob Armington remembers, "and for one year I lived without pay. We lived in a barn with the horses

Gus Swaaby:

'I'm too old to quit now!'

Gus Swaaby, a 76-year-old Freedman worker, says he has been in the struggle for 60 years. When he is not working he is a regular man on the picket line. "I'm too old to quit now," he says. "I'm too old to quit now," he says.

"The first strike I was in was up in Stockton, in 1937; the depression times most of you here wasn't even born yet. The biggest strike they had was the spinach strike when 85 people got shot. They closed the county for 6 weeks. I got shot too, I still got beebes in my shoulder. They were from the company vigilantes that did it, but we run'em out and they never came back any more.

You had a lot of women working down there, and longshermen,

warehousemen and all that. They were all working in the cannery. After the strike we started to sign all the canneries up in the whole state.

And then these same son-of-a-bitches put a table in front of the cannery saying TEAMSTERS. 'If you want to work in there' they said, 'you got to sign for the Teamster union.' They got most of them that way. It's the same thing as here; they've been doing this for years! Here in Coachella is not the first time.

"I was sick when Delano came around," he said, "but I got four years working with the Union here in Coachella. What the hell you gonna do? You got it in your blood and you just can't get away from it!

I still want revenge for those farmers who shot me in the back, and from those Teamsters who stole our contracts away. They even put out buttons about all that saying "Lest We Forget-April 23, 1937."

Just look at the Teamsters that are pushing in here. They're taking the working man's money. And if you're over 55 you can't get a job because you can't work fast enough for them. And the Teamsters are not hiring the workers; it's the labor contractors.

The labor contractor over near the camp where I live, he was looking for people to go work in the grapes this morning. But he couldn't get anyone. Nobody went with him.

I educate those guys over at the camp. I bring the paper out to them and show them about the bus crash, and the asparagus strike, and then I say, 'You still want to work in the grapes?'

"Do you know how long it is going to take for the growers to realize that the Teamsters are here to just fool around and steal their money?" he asked El Malcriado? "It will take as long as we get the pressure on the growers.

We got to put the pressure on them; put out leaflets, keep the picket line up. With the picket lines and the boycott we've got to put the pressure on all we can...and just never give up!



Fred Abad

Runtal came to the U.S. in 1930 at a time when thousands of Filipinos were brought to work in the fields. Young, strong, and unmarried, the growers considered them a perfect work force to move the crops.

Runtal worked in the asparagus in Stockton until 1950 when his back could no longer take the strain. "In 1930 we got 30¢ an hour in the asparagus but they used to cheat by telling us the price they were getting for it was less than it really was.

"Then they would take \$25 out of every paycheck and hold it until the end of the season just to make sure we stayed for the whole season."

and mosquitos and the roof was so full of holes you could see the sky. The blankets they gave us were so full of bugs that you didn't want to use them.

we had to go to Idaho to pick peas. We were really migrants then, and if we didn't move three or four times a season we weren't able to make it."

"About 1935 or '36 I became interested in reading," says Fred

Abad, "and I began to read, first about labor, about what organized labor was doing, and I realized that workers have been exploited and that exploitation was the weapon of the employers so that farm workers cannot get



Gus Swaaby

BLYTHER BUS MASSACRE SPURS SAFETY BILL

SACRAMENTO, Ca. -- A bill to require safety inspections for farm labor buses and training for farm labor bus drivers may soon become state law.

Strongly backed by the United Farm Workers of America, the California State Assembly by a 67-8 vote March 14 and will now be considered by the Senate Transportation Committee.

Assembly Majority Leader Jack Fenton introduced the bill (AB 2975) in the aftermath of the January 15 Blythe bus massacre in which 19 Imperial Valley lettuce workers were killed when a labor contractor bus plunged into an irrigation drainage ditch.

The California Highway Patrol found several serious mechanical defects in the bus, but said the crash was caused because the driver was going too fast. The federal National Transportation Safety Board, on the other hand, concluded that the flimsy anchorage system for the seats "contributed radically to the death toll."

(The 19 died when they were trapped in three feet of water by the bus seats, which were shaken loose from the floor by the impact of the crash. The NTSB found that the seats had been secured to the floor by only one thread of each sheet metal screw.)

"I never heard of the problems with farm buses until the accident in Blythe," said Fenton, chairman of the Assembly Committee on Industrial Safety. "If I had known about these safety problems I would have done something about it long ago, because farm workers are entitled to the same protections as school children or paid passengers when they are being transported."

"Unfortunately, in human affairs it takes a tragedy to make us see how bad things are."

The bill authorizes the state Labor Commissioner to revoke or refuse to renew the license of any labor contractor who fails to maintain his buses according to the state Vehicle Code or who employs a driver who is not properly trained and licensed. It also requires the Highway Patrol to inspect every farm labor bus at least once a year for mechanical violations, and establishes a required driver training course similar to those presently required of school bus drivers.

Currently, CHP inspections of farm buses are possible but not required. The owner of the Blythe massacre bus, labor contractor Jesus Ayala, actually had his license renewed several days after the crash.

The only punishment he received from the state is a \$50 fine for three infractions of the California Vehicle Code. Ignoring the true cause of the deaths, the bus seats, the CHP charged Ayala for the faulty electrical system and inoperative emergency brake system in the massacre bus and an exhaust tailpipe that terminated underneath the bus.

The Highway Patrol has not supported the bus safety bill.

"We're not against it," said a spokesman for CHP Commissioner Walter Pudinski, "It's just that this accident and the recent Border Patrol van crash were caused by driver error."

Pudinski himself has been quoted as saying he thinks driver training for farm bus drivers would be a good idea but that laws requiring inspections are not.

However, it is known that a memo by an official of the CHP's Motor Carrier Safety Division is circulating within the CHP urging that regulations concerning seat anchorage in farm bus-

es be strengthened to meet school bus standards.

The memo also urges the prohibition of lengthwise seating in farm trucks, which have similar seat construction as the Border Patrol van involved in the recent accident near El Centro.

The Teamsters Union has endorsed the bus safety bill. But the Teamsters' support for the bill will probably not quiet bitter anti-Teamsters feeling among Imperial Valley farm workers, still outraged by the Teamsters' do-nothing attitude toward the victims of the Blythe bus crash and their families. The bus was enroute to fields covered by Teamster contracts.

Que Viva La Causa!



The Blythe bus massacre

por Francisco Nuñez Gomez
(Translated from the Spanish)

I remember well, it was the 15th of January, The day of the accident. The contractor's bus turned over, trapping the people inside

Pablo Navarro Arellano was the bus driver. Every time I hear this corrido I feel sad and pained, thinking of the scene that happened on the road to Blythe.

In Calexico they reported what had happened, Among the nineteen dead there were children of the Mendoza family, Manuel, two daughters and a son.

At the United Farm Workers where the news arrived, The victims were identified Their leader was immediately told and right away Cesar Chavez arrived at the consulate.

Two countries became one in the gathering of the mourners, In Calexico they held the mass with the bodies of the dead present, with six priests and one bishop and a multitude of people.

On to Mexicali protesting we go, carrying the dead with us marching four deep in rows, so that the growers can see that we are still fighting back.

Arise campesino, carry your struggle onward, defend your right with the small giant (Cesar Chavez) Down with the growers' exploitation Que viva la Unión de Chávez



This labor contractor bus fell into a canal behind El Hoyo recruitment center in Calexico one month after the Blythe bus massacre.

Imperial Valley, More Accidents

CALEXICO, Ca. -- Accidents, injury and death on the job are part of the daily experience for Imperial Valley farm workers who work under Teamster contracts.

Shortly after the Blythe bus massacre, lettuce worker Anastacio Cerna was hit by a Danny Dannenburg bus near Holtville as he carried a lettuce box across the road. He was hospitalized, but is now back on his feet.

Angel Flores was run over by a lettuce truck February 8, while working for Colace Brothers Co. near Brawley. He is still hospitalized and will probably never walk again.

An empty bus belonging to contractor Araujo y Guillen fell into the canal behind El Hoyo in Calexico February 15 where farm workers gather to seek work every morning.

A Bruce Church Co. bus rear-ended another Bruce Church bus February 27 near Bond's Corner when the first bus stopped for a schoolbus. 23 farm workers were injured, one seriously.

Meanwhile, President Harold Bradshaw of InterHarvest, the largest vegetable company in the Imperial Valley, which has a contract with the UFW, sent the following letter to UFW president Cesar Chavez February 7: "Knowing of your concern for the condition of our crew buses, I thought you might like to know that in addition to our routine inspections, we have just completed a special inspection of all our buses and accomplished any necessary repairs, adjustments, etc."

\$2,000 for bus victims

CALEXICO, Ca. -- The Bus Accident Victims Benefit Fund has now distributed \$2175.58 to the families of victims of the Blythe bus massacre, according to Pablo Garcia, treasurer of the fund.

The fund was established by farm workers of the Imperial Valley in the aftermath of the bus massacre in mid-January.

Garcia reports that three separate disbursements have been made to the needy families and that money continues to come in

from around the country as well as from the Imperial Valley. As of March 26, \$2180.71 had been contributed by farm workers of the valley and \$264.16 by people from as far away as Illinois, Indiana, and Brooklyn, N.Y.

Contributions to the fund may be sent to: Comité por Ayuda de Accidentados de Blythe PO Box 1940 Calexico, California

Teamsters deceive widow

Blythe bus massacre widow Clara Melgoza, was told by a Teamster official that she would receive Teamster death-benefit money because her husband, Jose Anguiano Martinez, was killed in the bus crash on the way to a Teamster ranch.

She reports that Raul Vasquez of the Teamster El Centro office told her the date the money would arrive but that it never

did. When Tina Solinas of the Calexico Farm Worker Service Center called Vasquez on her behalf, she was told to check with the Teamsters' insurance company. The company told her that Martinez was not eligible.

"I want everyone to know what happened," Mrs. Melgoza says angrily, "so that they will know what the Teamsters are like."



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OXNARD, CALIFORNIA 93030

Unsafe seating condemned

No laws cover van in Border Patrol crash

EL CENTRO, Ca. — An unsafe seating arrangement and overcrowding contributed significantly to the high death toll in the March 7 Border Patrol van accident near here, according to an investigation by EL MALCRIADO. The findings of the investigation also indicate that such Border Patrol vans are completely unregulated by federal and state safety standards.

The Border Patrol van, carrying 18 Mexican farm workers being deported for entering the U.S. illegally, slammed into the rear of a parked truck on Interstate 8 after swerving off the road.

12 of the farm workers and the driver of the van, Border Patrol officer, Albert Feld, were killed, and the other 6 seriously injured. According to the Border Patrol, 18 was the capacity of the van.

The California Highway Patrol concluded that the driver, Albert Feld, 61, fell asleep at the wheel, allowing the van to drift off the road and into the parked truck. The CHP report said that no mechanical defects were found on the van which contributed to the accident. Several investigations undertaken by Federal agencies have not yet been completed.

'Objectional seating arrangement'

As with the Blythe bus massacre of January 15, however, in which 19 farm workers drowned in a drainage ditch, the report does not probe the factors which may in fact have led to the deaths of the passengers.

The seating in the rear compartment of the van, separated from the driver by a wire mesh screen, consists of three parallel benches running lengthwise along the van and a fourth bench backed up against the screen.

Of the 18 men seated on these benches, 12 of them suffered broken necks and died instantly. The other six were thrown about and seriously injured.

"We were all squished together on that bus," recalled Vicente Ramirez, one of the survivors. "Without luggage, it was really tight. Some of the compañeros didn't fit, so they went on top of the rest."

According to Jack Baird of the federally funded accident research project at the University of Southern California, "Someone ought to take a long look at this." That kind of arrangement is certainly objectionable, and it's hard to believe they would put so many people into such a small space.

"With the seats facing the side I can just visualize the necks flopping upon impact — I've seen it many times with test dummies," he continued.

"If the seats had been facing forward and the passengers wearing seat belts, without a doubt there would have been a reduction in the number of deaths,

A lot of the deaths would positively been prevented."

Outside the law

Each sector commander of the Border Patrol has the authority to establish the seating pattern in the vehicles used in his zone for transporting people without proper papers to the border, according to Captain Henry Fechlin, commander of the El Centro Border Patrol sector.

"We want to utilize the space in the van for the utmost efficiency and comfort of the passengers," he said.

A Highway Patrol official involved in the investigation said that three of the seats in the van were actually seat-backs converted into seats and installed after the van was purchased, but Fechlin denied this.

The Border Patrol has no safety regulations concerning the transportation of "illegal aliens," that he knows of, Fechlin said, nor any regulations specifically regarding seats.

The U.S. Department of Transportation does have a series of regulations for vehicles used in interstate commerce, but governmental agencies such as the Border Patrol are exempt from them.

Federal regulations regarding labor contractor trucks, which have a similar lengthwise bench construction for seats, do not apply to Border Patrol vehicles because they do not meet the definition of transporting farm workers to and from work.

California state law requires that all vehicles operated in the state, including federal vehicles, meet state standards, but Border Patrol vans are still exempt because there is no category in the law that includes such vehicles. And state laws regarding farm labor contractor trucks again do not apply because the Border Patrol vehicles are not involved in carrying farm workers to and from work.

Through this series of loopholes, Border Patrol vehicles appear to stand completely outside the law.

"I looked all over the federal vehicles regulations for something about these vehicles," said one CHP official, "and it's ludicrous that they don't have some regulations for them."

Inadequate by comparison

Farm labor trucks, however, are the closest category to the Border Patrol vans in terms of seating, and a comparison of the van to state and federal regulations shows that the Border Patrol vehicles don't even measure up to these minimal standards.

For example, federal and state regulations require 18 inches of seat space per person. Each Passenger in the Border Patrol van had between 10 and 14 inches.

Drivers of these vehicles and of the full-size Border Patrol buses also stand outside state and fed-



A Border Patrol van similar to this one carried 18 passengers when it crashed into the rear of a parked truck. The accident van, however, had an additional bench that ran parallel to the wire mesh. Not visible in this photo are benches on either side of the center bench.

eral safety regulations. Although they must have state and U.S. government driver's licenses, there is no requirement of a chauffeur's license or certificate and special training such as required for passenger and school bus drivers and labor contractor bus or truck drivers.

"The drivers are our regular detention officers," explained Omar J. Sewell, director of the El Centro Detention Facility, from which the van that crashed departed. "They have to be licensed to drive the size vehicle they are driving but the cargo is not specified."

CHP report wrong

Establishing the passenger capacity of the vans is a matter of simple arithmetic, according to Captain Fechlin.

By taking the maximum allowable weight for the vehicle, according to manufacturer's standards, and subtracting the weight of the vehicles when it is empty, you establish the allowable weight for passengers, said Fechlin. "Then you divide this by about 150 which is how much an average Mexican weighs and that tells you how many you can fit in," he said.

For this van, apparently, the result was 18.

Dodge literature for the civilian passenger vehicle of the same size as this van (1972 Tradesman 300) sets the seating capacity as 10 in the rear compartment, in seats facing forward. California state law limits the capacity of vans of this size to 16 when they are used for schoolchildren.

Despite the Highway Patrol report's claim that the vehicle's was not overweight with this many people aboard, the weight exceeded the maximum allowable by 300 pounds. This report made use of

inaccurate statistics about the weight of the passengers and did not include the luggage that was aboard.

"300 pounds over the weight limit isn't that much, but it is always possible that in a strong wind an overloaded van might swerve off the road more easily if the driver didn't have complete control of the wheel," said Jack Baird of USC. "And besides they had no business putting that many people in there to begin with."

cause we keep a close eye on these things. But if a van is overloaded we take disciplinary action. But we're waiting for the official reports before we make any recommendations."

Contrary to what Fechlin told El Malcriado, Martindale said the Border Patrol did have regulations regarding transporting "illegal aliens" but said he could not release a copy because they are "internal instructions." "I'll determine if there were any violations," he said.

The following chart demonstrates these calculations:

Gross vehicle weight: 7700 (maximum allowable)			
CHP REPORT		ACTUAL WEIGHT	
Weight of van, empty	4910	4910	Weight of van, empty ¹
18 passengers @ 135	2430	2737	18 passengers @ 152 ²
driver	190	186	driver ³
luggage	-----	180	luggage ⁴
	7530	-----	
		8013	

Sources:

1. CHP report
- 2 & 3. Imperial County Corner Leonard Speer
4. Omar Sewell, director, El Centro BP detention facility

Secret regulations?

It doesn't matter who the people are, they are entitled to safe transportation."

"We don't look at it as trying to jam people in there," said Lowell Martindale, associate deputy regional commander for management of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "We're not insensitive to the loss of life."

"I would be surprised if it was overloaded," he said, "be-

Meanwhile a memo is circulating within the California Highway Patrol recommending that length-wise bench seating be prohibited in farm labor trucks as unsafe. (A spokesman for CHP commissioner Walter Pudinski denied any knowledge of it.)

The memo apparently written in response to the Blythe bus massacre and the Border Patrol accident, also recommends that seat securement regulations for farm labor buses be upgraded to those of school buses.



Farm Worker Alert



What you should know about food stamps

(1) Striking workers and their families are entitled to food stamps.

(2) It is your right to receive food stamps if you and your family have low-income and few resources (property).

(3) You have this right whether or not you are an American citizen.

(4) You have this right no matter how short a time you have lived in your present community.

(5) You do not have to receive welfare to receive food stamps. If you do get welfare you are automatically eligible for food stamps.

(6) Everyone in your household does NOT have to be related to each other.

(7) If you are an adult in good health you must register for work unless you are already working but you are NOT REQUIRED TO BREAK A STRIKE.

(8) Your house, lot and one car do not count to disqualify you.

(9) The food stamp program was not designed as a welfare program. The welfare department is merely the agency which runs the food stamp program for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose is to improve the diet of low-income households. The goal is to help the grower by expanding the use of agricultural products.

(10) Food stamps are a bargain. If you have no income you can get free food stamps. A four person household with no income or very little can qualify for free stamps totalling \$142 per month. Beginning July 1 this will increase to \$150.

What you should do about food stamps

Demand your share. Several million dollars worth of food stamps go unused each year in the San Joaquin Valley alone because the very people who need them aren't getting them. The money for this program is money you have worked for all your life. It is not the government's money. Apply for food stamps today.

Campesino Centers answer your questions

Food stamps are coupons that can be used to buy food. They can increase the amount of food you buy because the amount of stamps you receive is greater than the amount you pay. Food

stamps allow you to buy more food with less money.

What can you buy with food stamps?

Any food except liquor, tobacco or pet food. No non-food items such as paper products. You can buy seeds and plants to produce food.

Where can you use food stamps?

At any store that accepts food stamps.

Who can get food stamps?

Households on welfare and households not on welfare.

What is a household?

A group of people—related or unrelated—who cook together, buy food together and live together as

What are resources?

Cash or items that can be quickly exchanged for cash except: your house, lot, and one car and any additional cars that are needed for employment. Your personal effects and household goods are not counted. Neither is the cash value of life insurance.

How many resources can you have and still be eligible?

Under \$1,500 (for households not on welfare). It doesn't matter how many people are in the household. But, if there are 2 or more people, and, at least 1 is over 60 years old, the household can have resources up to \$3,000.

What is income?

The income EXPECTED IN THE COMING MONTHS (not the

The higher your income, the more you pay.

Can people on strike get food stamps?

YES. No household can be refused stamps because a member of the household is not working because of a strike at his or her regular place of employment.

How long do you have to live in one place before you are eligible?

You are eligible right away.

What happens if you move?

When you move from one county or state to another, you remain eligible for 60 days. After 60 days you must be recertified at your new location.

How do you apply for food stamps?

All you have to do is fill out an application and be interviewed.

IN 30 DAYS of the day you apply. A home visit is NOT required. If you are found to be eligible, you will be mailed an identification card. Then, each month you will receive an authorization-to-purchase (ATP) card which will show you how many stamps you should receive and how much you should pay.

What is a fair hearing?

The way to APPEAL any action taken by the food stamp office that is harmful to you. You always have the right to a fair hearing whenever you disagree with any food stamp office action. Your Campesino Center will help you prepare for a fair hearing and go with you to the hearing.

Demand your food stamp rights!



Latest Development

(continued from page 3)

the charge that workers had been threatened with loss of their green cards."

Firings

Alfredo Lopez was fired April 10 at the ranch when Larson accused him of "destroying property." "He was ready to fire me," Lopez said, "because I told him I'd go to the picket line and strike him rather than sign with the Teamsters. He was complaining that I was doing bad work, but it was the same work I always did and he never criticized."

Jose David Perez, Sr. was fired the next day. Well-known as the head of one of the strongest UFW families on the ranch. Perez had received a call from Teamster organizer Manuel Alvarado two nights after the March 21 election urging him to join the Teamsters.

Alvarado said Larson had told him the Perez family crew was the last one the Teamsters needed to win over to eliminate the UFW.

Perez angrily refused the offer, and continued to work as before. He, too, however, told Larson he would strike rather than work under a Teamster contract, and was fired.

As the April 15 expiration of the UFW contract with Larson approached, the Teamsters demanded a card check.

At the same time, Alfredo Lopez said, "Josephina is trying to fire everybody, trying to run them off. The foremen now say they can fire whoever doesn't respond, and they will fire them."

"They left just a little bit of the thinning to do Monday (the 15 of April). On Tuesday, the strike begins for sure," he said.



an economic unit. This can include labor camps.

What is an economic unit?

A group of people who share common living expenses from the income and resources of all members.

Can there be more than one household in the same house?

Yes.

Can a person living alone be eligible?

Yes.

What are the requirements for eligibility for people not on welfare (a non-public assistance household)?

Income and resources cannot be too high. In addition, some household members may be asked to register for work.

income received before applying) by all household members except: the earnings of a student under 18, irregular income in small amounts, money from insurance settlements lump-sum payments, and the free use of a house.

How many food stamps will you get?

All households of the same size get the same amount of stamps. The amount of food stamps you receive is called the "coupon allotment". For a household of 1 person this is \$42, for 2 it is \$78, for 3 it is \$112, for 4 it is \$142, for 5 it is \$168, for 6 it is \$194, etc. In July these amounts will be increased.

How much will you pay for your stamps?

The amount you pay depends on your income after the deductions.

Applications are available in Spanish. Your Campesino Center will help you complete this form and go with you to the welfare department for your interview.

The center will, also, tell you what documents to take with you to verify the information requested on the form such as proof of income (pay stubs), medical bills or receipts, rent or house payment receipts, utility bills, birth certificates, student identification, etc.

If you are unable to apply in person because of distance to the welfare office, availability of transportation, or your health a Campesino Center worker can apply for you and, also, purchase your food stamp coupons for you.

What happens after you apply?

The food stamp office MUST decide on your application WITH-

National officers

(continued from page 6)

and we struggled, and this year it's going to be the same, but with one difference. Every hour that a person walks on a picket line here, there's a brother walking another picket line in a city in front of a store asking people not to buy grapes. Every day that someone gets up to go picket the fields, to picket the scabs here in Coachella, somebody else is getting up in a city to go picket a store to get people not to buy grapes.

The real spirit and the effort on the boycott comes from here. It comes from you, the strikers in Coachella.

Indian newspapers available!

Wounded Knee -- why did it happen, and has it changed things? Are old Indian treaties still valid? Is the Bureau of Indian Affairs an advocate for Indians or a colonial bureaucracy?

The best source of news about such issues facing American Indians is Indian people themselves, and two of the best newspapers covering basic Indian problems, Indian Movements, and current issues from the Indian viewpoint are:

AKWESASNE NOTES, a bi-monthly newspaper of 40-60 pages. No fixed rate for subscriptions, but a donation is hoped for. Write: Akwesasne Notes, Mohawk Nation, via Roosevelttown, N.Y. 13683

WASSAJA, "A National Newspaper of Indian America." Published monthly by the All-Indian American Indian Historical Society. (\$5/ year for Indians). Write Wassaja, 1451 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94117

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.

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Almaden contract renewed; Teamsters driven from fields

Hollister, Ca.--Almaden Vineyards, Inc. renewed its contract with the United Farm Workers of America in late March less than ten days after the workers chased a group of Teamster organizers out of the fields.

The new three year contract, which covers 800 workers at peak season, calls for an initial base pay wage increase of 15¢ an hour retroactive to January 1, and another increase of ten cents an hour to \$2.95 on July 1. Then, the pay scale increases 15¢ an hour each year in all job categories.

The contract also provides for a union hiring hall, a 10¢ per-worker-per-hour payment by the company to the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Plan and 5¢ an hour to the Juan de la Cruz Pension Fund, detailed pesticide protection, and such benefits as 6 paid holidays, paid vacations, time and a half for work on Sunday, and leaves of absence without loss of seniority.

"This is the best farm labor contract in California said Cesar Chavez, who signed the contract along with the entire UFW executive Board on March 30.

"It's a magnificent contract that we have," said Jose Concepcion Gutierrez, a worker at Almaden's Paicenes Ranch near Hollister. "I think it sets a basis for the other companies to renew their contracts. And with this, Gallo is going to have to sign also. They don't know what to do with their wines."

Chavez si, Teamsters no!

Teamster organizers appeared at the Almaden ranches in San Lucas and Paicenes during the recent contract negotiations between UFW and the company, apparently hoping to persuade the workers not to demand a contract renewal.

"The first day when they came was a Wednesday," recalled Jose Medina of Lupe Solis' crew at the San Lucas Ranch. "they told us they had good benefits, a medical plan and everything. But we know this is nothing but lies. They were trying to take advantage of us."

"The next day the same six or seven came back, and well, we told them to leave, that we didn't want anything to do with them. They insisted that we didn't have a contract or a union, and we got annoyed and told them they had five minutes to leave."

"And that's where it started. One of them thought that one of us had called him a 'son of a bitch,' and they started towards one of our brothers. A rock was thrown, and it hit him on the knee. Then we all went after them together and they jumped into their pickup and left."

Lupe Solis, leader of this crew, later said the Teamsters must have thought the crew would be

easy to sign up. "Or maybe they came to terrorize us," he said. "I don't want to fight with them if they want to provoke us we have to do our duty."

"Later they came back and threatened to take us to court," according to Adalberto Cornejo of the same crew. "So what, let them take us where they will, all we can say is that there is no other union than that of Cesar Chavez, and there will never be anyone else to guide us than the union of our president!"

The Teamsters also visited crews at the Paicenes Ranch. "I got so mad that I felt a pain in my ulcer," said Arcadio Torres, "and they had to take me to the hospital. I think the Teamsters are like Nixon -- they promise but they never deliver."

Workers negotiate

The new contract was negotiated by UFW negotiator David Burciaga and a committee of sixteen Almaden workers.

Jesus Rosales, a member of the Ranch Committee at the Paicenes Ranch said, "In the negotiations there is a person representing each aspect of the work, for example a field worker, an irrigator, one from the shop. Each representative looks out for the fellow-workers of that department, so in this way we can come to a better agreement. It's better when each department is represented, because they are the ones who know the work."

"Then during the general meetings we inform the membership of how the negotiations are going."

"The company doesn't really appreciate our being there," said Juan Aguirre of the San Lucas ranch, "because they'd rather negotiate with somebody who doesn't know anything about the operation than to have us there saying, 'Well, you did this wrong or you need to do that.'"

"If David were to say that, all they'd say is well, you don't



The workers and company personnel who negotiated the new Almaden contract: From left, Basilio Ramirez, Raphael Valdez, Jesus Rosales, Roberto San Roman, Arcadio Torres, UFW negotiator David Burciaga, Bob Soto, Almaden negotiator George Morrison, Jesus Solcedo, Almaden supervisor Tony Estalio, Luis Flores, Almaden supervisor Albert Oliveira, Almaden ranch manager Larry Bolger, Tony Sanchez, Pedro Ortega, Edmundo Rubio, and Manuel Ortiz. Not shown are worker representatives from the King City ranch, Anselmo Ramirez, Juan Aguirre, Lupe Solis, Jr., Austreberto Aguilar, Francisco Hernandez, Leon Infante, and King City Field Office Director Juan Huerta.

know anything about that because you're not out there."

Contract helps organizing

"The wages are good, up 25¢ the first year," said Aguirre, "but the way I see it the important thing is to have the contract itself. The contract is what provides for the ranch committees, the hiring hall, and the health and safety committees. With these things we organize ourselves."

"And it's exactly these things that the Teamster contracts don't have, that's how they don't permit the workers to organize," he said.

Under all UFW contracts, the workers elect a "ranch commit-

tee" to participate in settling grievances (disputes) over the interpretation of the contract and to generally act as the workers' representative to the company.

At the Paicenes ranch, the committee also runs the union hiring hall, where workers are sent to the fields of the basis of seniority, on the length of time worked for the company.

"The contract is only as strong as the ranch committee," said Tony Sanchez, a crew leader at the Paicenes ranch, "and we have a strong committee here."

The health and safety committee is made up of three workers and three company personnel to enforce the extensive health and safety clauses of the contract.

These clauses eliminate parathion and a number of other dangerous pesticides and establish procedures for the use of others, including detailed record keeping, safety clothing and equipment provided by the company, medical testing, and time limits which must be observed before workers can re-enter a field after pesticides have been used.

In addition, the company must provide toilet facilities, cold drinking water with individual cups, and a fifteen-minute rest break for each four-hour work period.

Unity was the key

Throughout the negotiations, Almaden workers picketed local stores in Hollister and King City a part of the Gallo boycott campaign. "They saw what we were doing there," said one worker, "and they must have figured if we would work so hard

Christian Brothers, Noviate renew contracts

As FL MALCRIADO went to press, UFW signed a new contract with Novitate and the formal signing of a new contract with Christian Brothers is expected soon. Both companies are California wineries.

Christian Brothers first signed a UFW contract in 1967 covering 500 workers at ranches in St. Helena, Reedley and Napa. The contract with Novitate, also first signed in 1967, covers 28 workers at a ranch in Los Gatos.

for the Gallo workers that we'd go twice as hard on Almaden if they didn't sign.

"And we told them in the negotiations that if they didn't sign, we wouldn't be at work the next day, we'd grab the flag and be out there on the road by the fields."

It must be great," concluded Arcadio Torres, "for workers in other places to receive the news about the struggle and the unity that exists within our union. And we are very proud of this union, because it defends our interests and our rights as workers."

"Next is the contract with Paul Masson," said Jose Medina "which expires on September of this year, and the workers there know they have the help of the compañeros at Almaden."

Hourly Wage Rates, as of April 1, 1974 in new UFW Almaden contract, compared to Teamster Gallo contract.

Job Classification	Almaden/UFW	Gallo/Teamsters
General Labor	\$2.85	\$2.76
Pruning		
Hand	3.15	2.81
Mechanical	3.25	
Irrigators	3.05	2.81
Crew Leaders	3.45	3.34
Tractor Driver		
Regular	3.45	3.16
Special		3.34
Equipment Maintenance	3.65	3.22