EL MALCRIADITO

The Voice of the Los Angeles Boycott Vol. I. No. 9, December 1975





Support Grows for Dec. 14 Kickoff:

Union Labor Backs L.A. March

Union men and women from throughout the Los Angeles area will be among those participating in the Dec. 20 rally at Salazar Park at which UFW President Cesar Chavez will be the featured speaker.

William Robertson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, has called on all union members to join with the UFW in the seven-day march beginning Dec. 14 and most especially at the final day rally.

Not only will Cesar Chavez be the main speaker on the final day of the march which will be over 80 miles long, but he will also be among those who will be participating at its beginning on

Robertson said that the participation in the march is this year's Christmas Project of organized labor in support of the UFW. In previous years unionists have gone to Delano with gifts for the children of striking farmworkers and also with food to assist the strikers.

This year Robertson said that organized labor is joining with all other supporters of the UFW in backing the historic march. Unions are also being asked for contributions to purchase food for needy farmworker families and Robertson also urged locals to bring nonperishable foodstuffs to Salazar Park. He urged "broad participation by the labor movement in the UFW's sevenday march and rallies to be held at designated locations each

Sunday, Dec. 14 marks the kick-off in Los Angeles of a new phase of boycott activity across the nation. While contract negotiations are in progress, local boycotters will march more than 80 miles through the city in a show of unity with farmworkers whose current problems are due primarily to incompetent election supervision and general sabotage of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act by growers and Teamsters.

Forces will gather for an ecumenical service at Mary Immaculate Catholic Church in Pacoima in the San Fernando Valley at 11 a.m., after which Cesar Chavez will be available to respond to press queries about the farm labor organizing campaign.

At 1 p.m. the first steps will be taken on this walk for justice, proceeding southward to Long Beach over a period of days, then swinging northeast up through East Los Angeles, and climaxing with a mass rally on Saturday, Dec. 20 (see map and itinerary, page 6).

Marching time will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily (except first and last days), averaging two miles per hour, 14 miles per day.

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On the Inside:

Report from Calexico
Gallo Story March Map and Route Reports from San Ysidro & Oxnard

March Map & Route



Cesar Chavez in L.A. during the last walk several months

Drive to Cripple Farm Labor Law Initiated by Teamsters, Growers

As the UFW continues to pile up heavy election victories in California fields, spokesmen for the agricultural industry and the Teamsters Union are demanding that the legislature cut off funds to the Agricultural Labor Relations Board. These demands took place at a two-day joint hearing of the Senate Industrial Relations Committee and the Assembly Labor Relations Committee in Fresno, Nov. 25-26.

Western Growers Association Executive Vice President Daryl Arnold was joined by Pete Baclig, Delano Teamsters top official, in calling for termination of appropriation funds to administer the new law. Baclig also called for the dismissal from the Board of its chairman, Bishop Roger Mahony and Board member Leroy Chatfield. In early October Bishop Mahony had identified Baclig as one of the Teamsters who had physically assaulted him and Chatfield during a Teamster demonstration at the ALRB officers.

Responding to the testimony of grower and Teamsters representations was UFW Vice President Dolores Huerta, who testified, "We are not surprised that growers oppose the organization of farmworkers; we are dumbfounded that the Teamsters — a supposed labor organization — also oppose the organization of workers."

Huerta said the supermarkets which pressured the growers into supporting a labor law because they had enough of the boycott should be informed of the change of position by the growers.

Cesar Chavez, UFW president, said, "The growers cannot have both war and peace. They can either have a law and elections or they can have strikes and boycotts. Calling for an end of funding for the board is an act of war."

Cal State L.A. Support Committee Cleans Up Campus

A militant and consistent campaign of Cal State L.A. UFW Support Committee finally resulted in victory when the A.S. Board of Directors voted to endorse the United Farm Workers' "long fight for dignity and self-determination for farm labor in California."

This campaign was climaxed when Junior Class President Eddie Zamarripa and Rep-at-Large Mike Villalobos presented the resolution calling for the "Cal State academic community to boycott Gallo wines, as well as grapes and lettuce harvested by non-UFW labor."

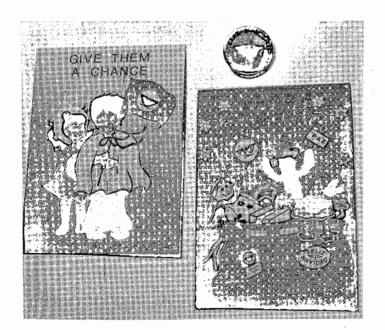
In the course of the campaign it was discovered that fraud was being perpetrated on the student body. This was taking place in the university cafeteria where on Nov. 5 it was discovered that Teamster lettuce was being used and that the crates in which it arrived had the handstamped official UFW union label on it.

Royal Packing Co. in Salinas produces the containers in question, and when asked by the *University Times* (CSLA daily) about the fradulent use of such labelling, the company claimed to be unaware of the existence of the mis-marked crates — or even who the broker was when the lettuce was delivered.

The discovery was made by several students, all members of CSLA UFW Support Committee. One, Hector Paracua, said, "As we approached the rear section of the cafeteria, I noticed along with the others that there were four boxes of the king size brands of lettuce in store under the Royal Packing Co. They had the AFL-CIO Farmworkers label on them. I understand that previous to this date, the Farmworkers have had only one contract that is valid, and that one is with the Inter-Harvest Company. What I had seen in the cafeteria was a clear example of the unjust acts that Farmworkers are facing all over the United States. It was fraud out in the open."

The matter is now in the hands of ACLU lawyer Dan Lavery who called it a case of "consumer fraud and misrepresentation," and an infringement on the public's right to boycott. A civil suit is being considered pending further investigation.

Meanwhile, the Cal State L.A. BOD also approved a request that the CSLA cafeteria purchase only UFW-harvested grapes and lettuce.



Don't forget to order your holiday cards from the UFW. Above is a sample of just two.

All photos not otherwise credited are by Dorrit Thomsen.

PROOF OF FRAUD



University Times photo



What Some Store Managers Tell Us About the Boycott

As election certifications slowly trickle in, boycott cities all over the United States are mobilizing for action. It is not a secret that in all likelihood a majority of growers will put up a strong and active resistance to relinquishing their feudal control over farmworkers by refusing to sign contracts with the UFW. The pivotal point in a union contract is the hiring hall which represents a shift in power from employer to employee, concerning workers' rights and self-determination.

Boycott strategy is being delineated now in preparation for the real possibilities of growers negotiating in "bad faith." Delegations of community supporters are presently being organized to feel out supermarket management attitudes toward UFW election victories; letting them know that the boycott is not yet over — nor will it be until "the ink is dry on the contracts"; and making clear that should there occur any breakdown in contract negotiations, due primarily to grower refusal to comply, store owners will be asked not to deal in those particular ranch products.

Up to now the stock answer of most managers has been in the form of a dualistic role, i.e., the personal opinion that is sympathetic to farmworker struggle ("If I weren't manager of this store, I would probably be on the picket line myself."), juxtaposing the managerial category that takes precedence during store hours ("I represent company policy, there is nothing in my power to do for you.").

If in the coming months markets choose to fight growers' battles and continue to do business with them despite bad faith bargaining, they will again have to deal with picket lines in their parking lots. Without contracts, nothing's changed.

La Lucha in Calexico

By Sam Kushner

CALEXICO — It was 3:30 a.m. the day before Thanksgiving and, as usual, hundreds of workers were already streaming across the border from Mexicali in search of work in California's fields. At the union office on Imperial, almost on the borderline, UFW organizers were arriving to begin their 16-hour day which sometimes stretched to 18 or 20.

Among those who had already come to the UFW office and left for their assignments were UFW Interharvest workers who, because of their union contract, have been called Los Dormiliones — the sleepy heads — since they are not among those who have to seek out contractors' buses in the very early morning hours. Their jobs are secure and they can sleep in a little bit. But not this morning.

There was a special election on hand in the Blythe area at the Hubbard Ranch. It was to take place later in the morning and had been hurriedly scheduled by the ALRB at the request of the Teamsters and the company. It was the latest election in the Palo Verde Valley and the UFW had already won six in a row, including a highly significant one at the High and Mighty Farms.

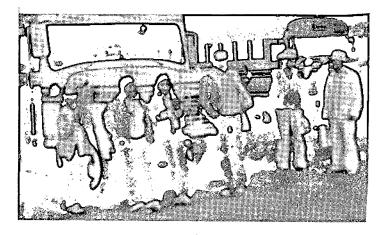
The pre-election procedures at Hubbard was one that has become all too familiar. First the Teamsters Union petitioned. It had the contract there and appeared to have the edge. But it was soon clear that the Teamsters did not have sufficient authorizations to warrant elections. By Saturday the UFW was told that the Teamsters had come up with enough cards.

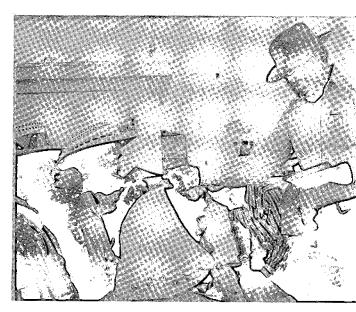
It was not until late Tuesday that the UFW was informed that the election would take place on Wednesday morning, the day before Thanksgiving. To the consternation of the UFW organizers the pre-election conference was initially scheduled for 4 p.m. the previous day, at a time when the UFW committee and all the workers would be enroute from Blythe to Mexicali, where almost all of them resided.

After some hassling a conference of sorts took place at 5:30 p.m. and the night long job began to reach the workers who had not been on the job that day with news of the next day's election. And on election morning about 10 organizers were on hand to talk over things with the Hubbard workers when they got on the buses during the pre-dawn hours.

When the election count came in the UFW had 80 votes and the Teamsters 45. It was a good way to begin the Thanksgiving weekend. Coming as it did a few days after the High and Mighty Farms election, it reflected a growing pro-UFW trend in the Southernmost tier of the state.

In the High and Mighty election the Teamsters did not even try to get on the ballot. From July 1970 to July 1975 it held the contract with this ranch. In January 1975, 19 workers died in a horrible bus accident outside Blythe. They were enroute to work at High and Mighty and Cesar Chavez flew to Calexico to organize the help for the families of the victims. Once again the UFW put into practice its belief that the Teamsters had the contracts while the UFW had the workers. It came to the aid of the workers and





Labor contractor in Imperial Valley handing out checks A soon to be outmoded practice.

apparently the workers did not forget. With the Teamsters not of the ballot, 36 workers voted for the UFW and 24 for no union.

Imperial Valley, traditional stronghold of the growers, is now the target of a massive UFW campaign. The drive to unionize the campesinos goes far beyond this city. It reaches into two states California and Arizona, covers about 600 miles in a 300-mile triangle. Organizing teams are operating out of Blythe and Sai Luis and reach into other areas including near Phoenix and Tuc son, Arizona. All in all there are about 19,000 workers in this im mense and highly significant area.

In addition to the string of victories in the Blythe area the UFW has won four out of five elections in Imperial Valley. Still in doub is the outcome at the Sam Andrews Ranch. There, according to UFW Executive Board member Marshall Ganz, who heads up this organizing campaign, "They did everything except shoo someone and we even had one guy threatened with a gun. Despite the local ALRB complaint against Andrews, the state ALRB ordered the election to proceed. The Teamsters emerged with 142 votes to 134 for UFW, two for no union and 10 challeng ed. Ganz and the UFW charge the company with massive violations of the law, and believe the ALRB will eventually over turn this result.

Situations at ranches like the Joe Maggio Co. are typical Ganz said. In an attempt to get a quick election before lettuce and carrot workers from up north are hired, the company put or a crew of 50 workers for a single day. Ganz described this as "a set-up deal to manipulate and set up a false peak."

This plot of the grower and Teamsters was exposed when the workers came to the UFW and complained about the strange happenings on the ranch. The Board dismissed the Teamsters petition for the third time "with prejudice" and now the UFW is looking forward to the normal work crew coming South to participate in the elections on this ranch in coming months. Victory is anticipated.

In Coachella, Eliseo Medina accuses the Teamsters and the growers of continuing the conspiracy that goes back to 1973.

In Coachella Valley, the UFW has won seven out of 11 elections according to Medina. (There are a total of 23 workers or two of the lost ranches, one with six and the other with 17.)

"There's a continuing conspiracy in the Coachella Valley,' said Medina. "Now it is not to take our contracts away but to rig elections." He cited case after case of growers using the same pro-Teamster crew in an effort to reach a false seasonal peak aimed at getting premature votes. The UFW, which has now doubled the number of workers it represents in Coachella, "will have a good victory in Coachella," Medina predicted.

The Fabulous Washburn Family

There are within the union a few dramatic examples of entire families involving themselves in the farmworker struggle. In Los Angeles, the Washburns are a good case in sight: three

generations fighting for La Causa - 13 members!

Hazel Washburn, mother of three sons and a daughter, has always been an activist, and it was in 1971, while doing volunteer work for the Migrant Opportunity Program in Phoenix, Arizona, that she first had contact with the United Farm Workers. She invited a union representative to talk to her co-workers, and shortly afterwards she began volunteering at the UFW Tolleson office. Hazel was soon joined by her daughter, Zoe, then 19, who immediately started working full-time on the UFW RFK Medical Plan. Scott, 25, who is presently director of the San Ysidro field office, spent Christmas vacation with them, and returned the following month to join the UFW staff on the recall of Gov. Williams in spring of '72.

The next year both Scott and Zoe were sent to the Chicago boycott office to organize for consumer sympathy, the harsh weather forcing Zoe to return to California for health reasons. Scott met his wife Nancy during the recall movement.

Meanwhile, Cesar was fasting for unity among farmworkers. When he had to be hospitalized, Hazel brought him press releases daily. One day he asked her whether she had other children. It turned out that La Paz was in need of a printer, and Brad had just completed printer training in Kentucky. He and his wife, Ann, and their daughter arrived soon after to work in La Paz. Brad, 28, is currently UFW liaison with labor unions in L.A. At this same time, Russ, 31, who had worked awhile on the Oakland Boycott, moved with his wife, Valerie, to run the daycare center, also in La Paz. Now Russ is staff mechanic at the union garage in Pasadena.

Hazel's ties with the union draw directly on her own childhood experiences when her family lived in a lumber camp where her father was engineer on the train that went out to bring in logs. She told of the family's hardships in the pre-union days.

"Then there were union activities and anyone who was involved got the pink slip on Saturday night. But when the union did finally get in after much harassment and some violence, suddenly everything changed. There was more money, more dignity; there was a medical plan — we could go to a doctor. And my father would come home Friday and didn't have to leave again until Monday. I just can't forget that, and I see it closely related with what's happening with farmworkers, and what a union means."

Confrontation in Beverly Hills

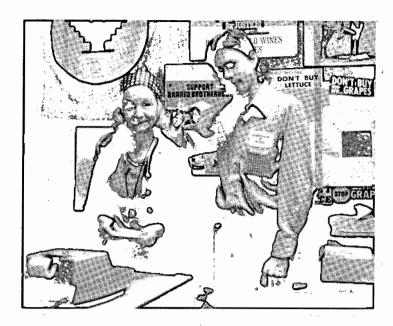
One of the more dramatic confrontations between the UFW and the growers and Teamsters took place — of all places — in Beverly Hills on Nov. 13.

The protagonists before a luncheon meeting of the Beverly Hills Bar Association were UFW general counsel Jerry Cohen, Teamster attorney George Pappy and grower lawyer Donald Dressler. While Cohen centered his main fire on the Agricultural Labor Relations Board counsel Walter Kintz, the grower and Teamster attorneys directed their main attacks at the five-member board and in some instances the farm labor law itself.

Cohen reminded the audience, which seemed to be most responsive to the UFW position, there had still been no action by Kintz on the 180 unfair labor charges the UFW filed on the very first day of the elections in Salinas. He told the audience that "the law is dissolving a marriage (between the Teamsters and growers) that has existed out there."

"The war is not over," Cohen said. "The hostilities have just moved into a new arena under the farm labor law."

There were a few light moments at the luncheon at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. One came when Pappy said that the Teamsters had "to knock a few heads together." Realizing what he said, he quickly added, "I mean this figuratively." But the audience's burst of laughter and some shouts of "what about 1973?" showed where many of the lawyers in the audience were at.



Now Hazel is in charge of recruitment of lawyers for field offices dealing with court hearings of unfair labor practice charges. "It takes a lot of phone calls to get one volunteer attorney, but we have a good list to work with and they're really cooperative. I'm enjoying this work."

But for her role in the future, the only certainty is that it will remain with the union; everything else is unpredictable. "When you walk into this office you have X number of things you think you're going to accomplish before you come in. And then one telephone call sends you off on an absolutely different thing, so at the end of the day you've finished an entirely different schedule. It's very difficult to plan because the union goes from crisis to crisis."

"I think the union's one place where there's equality of sexes in job abilities and recognition, but perhaps the biggest difficulty is with women with children. In L.A. there are between seven and nine kids." Hazel sees the obvious need for a daycare center in the L.A. Boycott — where her own five grandchildren could teach the huelga clap to the other kids!

ALRB HEARING ON GALLO'S MISDEEDS

The E. & J. Gallo winery has been charged by the Agricultural Labor Relations Board with approximately 50 violations of the new state farm labor law. On Nov. 17, Barry Bennett, regional director of the Fresno office of the ALRB, filed this massive 18-page complaint which includes a charge of "massive surveillance" by the company and that it unlawfully assisted the Teamsters Union.

The hard-hitting report, a virtual indictment of the company which bore out many of the claims of the UFW, was issued following an exhaustive 11-week investigation into the contentions of the UFW. It goes back to the very first day of the new law, going into effect, Aug. 28.

Included in it are numerous instances of massive surveillance of the workers by Gallo supervisors and foremen. Joining with the company agents in these operations were Teamsters Union officials, according to the ALRB complaint. Time after time workers were photographed by Gallo management representatives while the workers were seen talking with UFW organizers.

Not only did the company "mug" the workers but it also carefully noted the names of those who had the temerity to listen to the UFW side of the argument. On many occasions the company's officials were accompanied by Teamsters Union representatives while this was being done.

The ALRB's complaint which charges the company with acting hand and glove with the Teamsters has been previously publicly aired.

FIELD REPORTS FROM OXNARD, SAN YSIDRO BY BOYCOTTERS

Approximately two dozen supporters of the Los Angeles boycott have had the opportunity in recent weeks to visit various UFW field offices and observe firsthand the organizing process, labor camps, elections and court hearings pertaining to unfair labor practice charges. We have included two such reports here.

Martin Cornwall is a Franciscan brother from Whittier, very active on the boycott in Pico Rivera. He went to the Oxnard field

office just prior to the sopas.

Another very active boycotter from the Hollywood district, Maree Flores, has been a strong supporter of the Union since the beginning when she worked a number of years as an organizer. Her report comes from her experiences in the San Ysidro area near the Mexican border.

VISIT TO CABRILLO VILLAGE — By Brother Martin Cornwell

Our visit to Oxnard to see the farmworker situation was a wonderful and rewarding experience. In the span of nine hours: we visited the UFW office where we were given the latest information on the elections; we visited and talked with about 30 strikers at the Santa Clara Produce Ranch; we entered the ranch, and the supervisor gave us an extensive explanation of the grower's side of the story; we were allowed to interview two members of ALRB from Ventura; we helped an attorney prepare a UFW case for possible court action; and we visited the muchtalked-about Cabrillo Village.

There are two versions of the Cabrillo Village story. The "official" story has it that the State Department of Housing and Community Standards ordered the houses to be brought up to code, or be closed. The owner, Saticoy Lemon Association, and the lease holder, S&F Growers, seemingly agree that it would cost too much. Result: On Oct. 10, the approximately 400 people living at the labor camp were given notice to be out of the camp

by Nov. 10.

The people who live at the camp claim that it is a palace by comparison to most other labor camps. It didn't look any worse to me than lower-middle class housing in the Whittier area. The workers are convinced that the only real reason for their eviction is their solidarity and strong support for the UFW. The grower knows too well what this solidarity means, since the workers went out on strike last October. Consequently, the people feel that the inspection was selective health code enforcement on behalf of the grower. The inhabitants feel that minor housing deficiencies were exaggerated. As a final test of the owner's sincerity, they offered to do all of the repair work if the owner supplied the materials. The response has been negative.

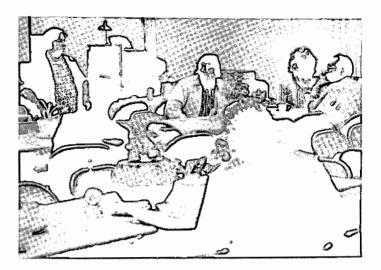
It seemed like the almighty power of the growers had asserted itself again. But I did not see any despair, only sadness and disappointment that the new law was not working as well as it might. In fact, there was even an air of expectation and hope . . . after all, the vast majority of farmworkers were voting for Chavez and

the UFW.

SAN YSIDRO — By Maree Flores

I recently traveled to San Ysidro with other Southern California area supporters and participated in an authorization card campaign. Our field coordinator, Scott Washburn, explained that authorization cards were needed to request an election in the fields. A majority of the workers had to sign up with the UFW and win the election in order to be represented in discussions of wages, hours, and working conditions with their employer.

We traveled to a large tomato ranch which the workers called "Los Diablos." Scott had no idea of the reception we would get, but cautioned us to leave if the police arrived. It took an hour to drive there and in the van I had a chance to talk with farm worker supporters who were with us and made up the bulk of the organizing team. One worker told us with pride that we would not find any Teamsters in San Ysidro. In 1971, he said, the Teamsters were kicked out of the Valley. Primarily, we would



Inez Lacey speaking to Huntington Park sopa.

Several hundred people shared in a poor person's meal just before Thanksgiving and then listened to guest speakers describe the present election organizing campaign, saw slide show presentations and heard reports from members of delegations who went to the fields to observe election preparations.

Due to the tremendous success of all regional sopas, everyone is now gearing up to join in the L.A. march, "Hasta Los Contratos," beginning Dec. 14.

BOYCOTT ALL GALLO WINES!

find illegals, or "undocumented workers."

When we arrived we were instructed to look for the workers. We had to trek over fields and hills until we found them. After a while it became apparent that we wouldn't find any workers to sign up unless they wanted to be found. It pleased all of us when two to three workers stood up from a far distance. We shouted "Viva Chavez" to identify ourselves and they responded. The first group was small. They were living in the fields, using flat cardboards to sleep under the vines. They used the irrigation pump to wash their clothes, carefully laying them over the vines to dry. It was shameful to see them having to live here, breakfasting on soda and pastries. They listened to us, and of the nine workers gathered in that small bunch, five signed. The others didn't decline outright; they insisted that they had already signed. There was no point in alienating them, so we left to talk to another group of workers. Their living situation was the same. One worker was shaking and I was certain he was sick.

Another worker I approached was at first shy, but he opened up when he was shown a picture of Pope Paul VI greeting Cesar Chavez. He asked me why he should sign since he had signed up at other ranches, but those ranches didn't have elections. A local farmworker answered him that we could not promise there would be an election. But if we had an election, and we won, it would be possible that this worker would never experience any benefit from the Union, but that soon, or sometime in the future, his life would be affected. And if not his life, then the lives of brothers or cousins. It was touching to see all the workers nod their heads in agreement. A majority of the workers signed authorization cards that day — but it would be a long time before any of them would see any changes.

Back L.A. March

Continued from Page 1

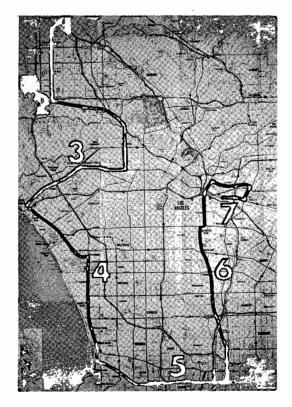
Everyone is welcome to participate in the march. A walkathon-style sponsor program has been initiated where, for example, an organization, curch or school will be able to sponsor a group or individual representative in turn for money pledged to the UFW based on the distance walked. These contributions will be announced at the rally, along with donations by supportive unions which back the boycott.

All persons and groups are urged to carry banners demonstrating solidarity. Let's show California that Los Angelenos are demanding contracts NOW for farmworkers who voiced their votes for the United Farm Workers!

El Malcriadito is published primarily for those who contribute monthly to the support of UFW activities in Los Angeles.

If you are not now a Sponsoring Associate, or if you have fallen behind in your pledge payments, PLEASE - do what you know you should to support this most authentic movement for economic justice in the USA today.

For more information on how to plug in, call the office and ask Linda Garcia about it. Let's hear from lots of you!



THE WHERE AND WHEN OF THE L.A. MARCH

DAY BY DAY SCHEDULE FOR UNITED FARM WORKERS MARCH

1st Day, Sunday, December 14

10:30 a.m.: Assemble — corner of Laurel Canyon and Van Nuys Blvds., Pacoima

11:00 a.m.: Ecumenical Service

1:00 p.m.: March begins

6:00 p.m.: Evening program: Temple Judea, 5429 Lindley, Tarzana

2nd Day, Monday, December 15

8:00 a.m.: Assemble — Van Nuys and Ventura Blvds., Van

6:00 p.m.: Evening program: Yablon Center, 7213 Beverly Blvd., W. Hollywood

3rd Day, Tuesday, December 16

8:00 a.m.: Assemble and march - Wilshire and Santa Monica Blvds., West L.A.

6:00 p.m.: Evening program: Convenant Presbyterian Church, 6323 W. 80th St., Westchester.

4th Day, Wednesday, December 17

8:00 a.m.: Assemble and march - Imperial Highway and Sepulveda Blvds. (Hwy. 1)

6:00 p.m.: Evening program: Amvets, 1958 W. Compton, Wilmington

5th Day, Thursday, December 18

8:00 a.m.: Assemble and march - Wilmington Blvd. and

Pacific Coast Hwy. (Hwy. 1), Wilmington 6:00 p.m.: Evening program: St. Clements Episcopal Church, 6909 Rugby, Huntington Park

6th Day, Friday, December 19

8:00 a.m. Assemble and march - Imperial Highway and Long Beach Blvd., South Central L.A.

6:00 p.m. Evening program: Belvedere Park, 4914 E. Brooklyn, East L.A.

7th Day, Saturday, December 20

8:00 a.m.: Assemble - Belvedere Park, 4914 E. Brooklyn, East L.A. March to Salazar Park, 3864 Whittier Blvd., East L.A.

12 Noon: Rally with UFW President Cesar Chavez and others (approx. time)

For additional information contact UFW office, 1434 West Olympic Blvd., phone 381-1136.

El Malcriadito

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