



# El Malcriado

THE VOICE OF THE FARM WORKER



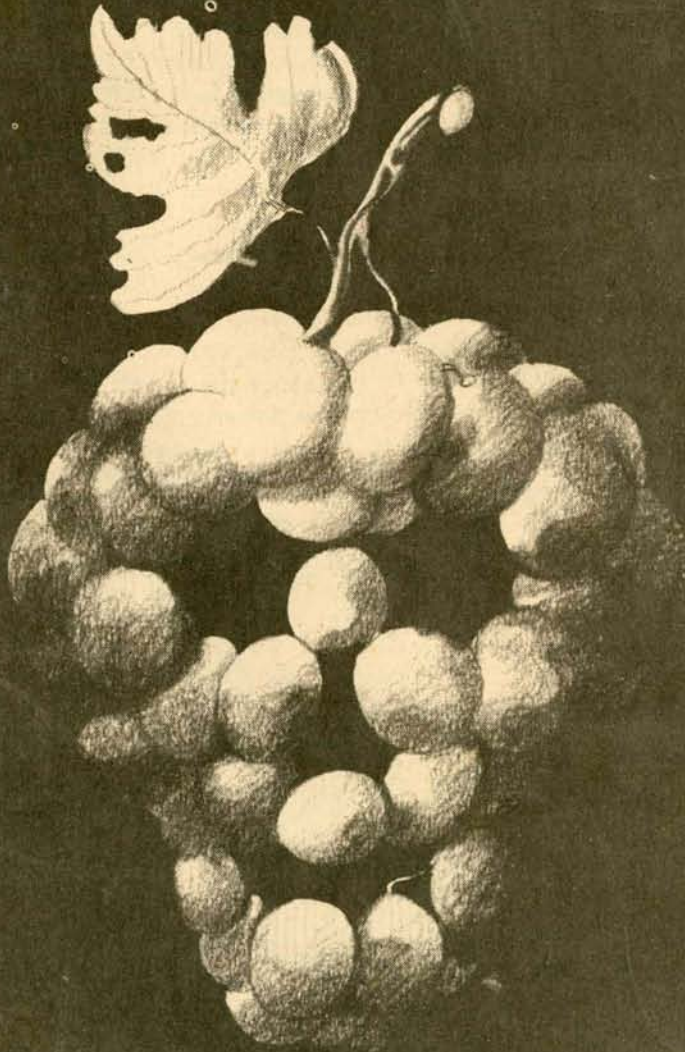
in English

VOL. III, No. 6

DELANO, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 1-30, 1969

## Don't Eat Grapes.



### GROWERS OFFER TALKS AS BOYCOTT TIGHTENS

See Page 3





## SIT INS SLAM COACHELLA

COACHELLA, June 11--The grape strike took a new turn today as workers at camps of five major ranches began sit-ins to force growers to recognize their demands for a Union. Workers at camps owned by Bianco Fruit, Karahadian, Steele Ranch, Bagdasarian and Coachella-Imperial Distributors (C.I.D. Ranch) began the "sit-in" at 5 AM, the time when workers generally leave their camps to begin work. The grape pickers were given moral and legal support from those already on strike with the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

The UFWOC also promised the workers food and financial help if the growers should try to starve them out.

The main sit-in of 37 workers, was at Camp #2 of Bagdasarian Grape Company, whose president is Mike Bozick, the loquacious leader of the Desert Grape Growers League. Bozick has repeatedly assured the press that there is no strike and that the workers do not want a Union. The Bagdasarian workers, mostly Filipinos, vowed to stay in the camp until Bozick signed

a contract. Dolores Huerta, UFWOC Vice President, described the workers as "the bravest of the brave" for their dramatic action. And two days later, when 10 major grape growers said that they were ready to begin negotiations to end the strike, Mrs. Huerta gave special credit to the Filipinos of Bagdasarian Camp #2. "Their courage, their actions, may have been the final straw that scared the growers into opening discussions," she stated.

Workers living in Camps owned by the ranchers have the same rights as tenants or renters, and cannot be evicted without due notice. When the strike began in Delano in 1965, the growers brutally evicted the camp residents, often with force and physical violence (and help from the local police). They often threw the residents' belongings into the gutter and locked their rooms on them. Most of the camp residents were Filipinos. The Union did not have lawyers then. Today a battery of three lawyers in Coachella and backing from the

continued on page 14

## BOZICK ORDERS WORKER ARRESTS

THERMAL, June 17 -- A usually cocky Mike Bozick called out cops and guns today to clear his camp (Bagdasarian Camp #2) of workers who had gone on strike but were continuing to live in the camp. The workers, who were conducting at sit-in at the camp, denounced Bozick's move as inhuman and illegal. Three workers, foreman Il-las Baniqued, Fernando Avalos, and William Deman, all Filipino-Americans, decided to challenge Bozick's right to evict them from their homes, and were arrested at mid-night. They said that they will test Bozick's actions in court, and possibly sue him for damages if his actions are ruled illegal. They will be defended by UFWOC attorneys.

The other 34 strikers from the camp left the camp under the threat of arrest from Bozick. But their historic sit-in has already served as a symbol to workers throughout the nation who are trapped in the vicious "camp" system and must face losing their homes every time they protest miserable wages or conditions.

Young workers at Bagdasarian Camp #2 give Victory sign





# HISTORIC BREAK THROUGH!

## GROWERS OFFER NEGOTIATIONS

LOS ANGELES, June 20--Discussions between ten prominent grape growers and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee were expected to begin this week in what could be a historic breakthrough in the four year old grape strike.

First hint of the break came on Friday, June 13, when the ten growers, who claim to grow about 15% of California's table grapes, held a press conference in Indio, California, announcing that they were ready and willing to begin negotiations with the Union. The following day, the UFWOC accepted the growers' offer to open negotiations.

"We stand ready to meet immediately," Larry Itliong, UFWOC's Assistant Director stated in the Union's public announcement. "We intent to make every effort in the very best of good faith to reach a quick and equitable agreement. Protracted negotiations are not necessary. The issues in disagreement are neither great in number nor complexity. If both sides wish a settlement, little time need be consumed reaching it."

The statement continued: "The strike and boycott will continue at all levels with full intensity. They will be concluded only upon the signing of contracts and even then only for those employers with whom agreements are reached. The strike and boycott will be intensified against those growers who still refuse

to recognize and negotiate with our Union.

"Even though the group of growers taking this action represents a minor portion of the table grape industry in California, it is clear that they have taken the first step towards ending this bitter struggle, giving farm workers a measure of dignity on the job, and developing industrial peace on the farms of the state."

The statement closed by noting that negotiations "will provide a proper test for the honesty and decency of all the remainder of the industry. Surely if they cannot join an effort such as this, they will have told the entire world that they view the only satisfactory termination of this problem as the total destruction of the Union."

Anti-Union growers, led by Martin Zaninovich and John Giumarra of Delano, replied on Monday, June 16, by stating emphatically "The industry, so long as we must, will fight Chavez." The Zaninovich-Giumarra group claimed it represented growers controlling 93% of California's table grape industry, and pledged an all-out, bitter-end fight against the Union. Zaninovich also viciously attacked the ten grape growers for offering to negotiate with the Union, and Jack Pandol, another anti-Union grower, described the ac-

continued on page 14



## THE STRIKE IN COACHELLA . . .

The grape strike in Coachella is so varied that it is hard to give an outsider an accurate picture of what is happening here. Sometimes we are not sure ourselves. Some things are so different from previous strikes. Some things are so tragically the same.

There are the strikers themselves, a "hard core" of about 200 families, with enthusiasm and spirit which surpass even the spirit of the march to Sacramento or the other high points of the four-year old grape strike.

One might think that "spirit" would be hard to come by at 3 AM, when we meet in the dilapidated strike kitchen for a brief breakfast, meeting, and morning assignments. Then

continued on page 10



## EDITORIAL

THE  
GRAPE  
BOYCOTT  
GOES  
ON!

We apologize to our subscribers and readers for the lateness of this issue of El Malcriado. And we further apologize for the fact that there will be only one issue of the paper in June. We have temporarily suspended publication of the Spanish edition of the paper until the staff can be reorganized. Please bear with us. All subscriptions will get a full 24 issues of the paper.

The Editors

**EL MALCRIADO**, The Voice of the Farm Worker, is published twice monthly by the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO. Subscriptions in the United States and its possessions are \$3.50 per year, and foreign, including Canada and Mexico, US \$5. Subscriptions for members of UFWOC are included in monthly dues.

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## EDITORS

You are welcome to reprint material from **EL MALCRIADO**, provided a copy is sent to us and the item is credited "From **EL MALCRIADO**--UFWOC."

On June 16, 1969, Martin Zaninovich of Delano issued a vicious and bitter attack on the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and on the ten grape growers who had offered to begin negotiations to end the grape strike and boycott.

Zaninovich, president of the South Central Farmers Committee, E. Alan Mills, Executive Vice President of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, John Giumarra of Giumarra Vineyards, largest table grape grower in the world, and Mike Bozick, president of the Desert Grape Growers League, stated emphatically that "this industry, so long as we must, will fight Chavez." The anti-union growers claimed to represent growers who produce 93% of California's table grapes.

Juanita Brown, UFWOC's coordinator for the international boycott of table grapes, replied to the offer to negotiate by the ten grape growers, and the intransigent position of the rest of the growers, by stressing that the international boycott of table grapes will continue. "We are all hopeful that negotiations will soon open and lead to contracts with the ten growers who have offered to sit down and talk with us," stated Mrs. Brown. "But there are no contracts yet. And even if we do reach agreement with these ten growers, the huge majority of grape growers seem determined to deny their workers those basic rights for which we are struggling."

Mrs. Brown called on all boycotters to redouble their efforts in these crucial coming weeks, to pressure all growers into signing good contracts.

Mrs. Brown also stressed that the growing concern over residues of pesticides on the grapes transcends the question of Union or non-Union grapes. "There will be a strong clause on pesticides in any Union contract," Mrs. Brown stated. "This will be for the protection of both the workers and consumers. Grapes sprayed with DDT, and with certain other deadly pesticides are a real danger to consumers, and the public must be made aware of that danger."

Zaninovich and other anti-union growers, in their press release, stated "Chavez' policy, as set forth by him and by UFWOC, is an outrage to decency in what we loosely call a civilized era" Statements like these, Mrs. Brown stressed, indicate that Zaninovich and the huge majority of growers are digging in for a desperate struggle against the Union, a struggle in which they equate destroying the Union with preserving civilization.

"The boycott is our best non-violent weapon to convince these feudal-minded grape barons to sit down and negotiate," said Mrs. Brown. "Please help us, with everything you have, to continue this effort. We need your help now, more than ever."

"BOYCOTT, BABY, BOYCOTT!!!"



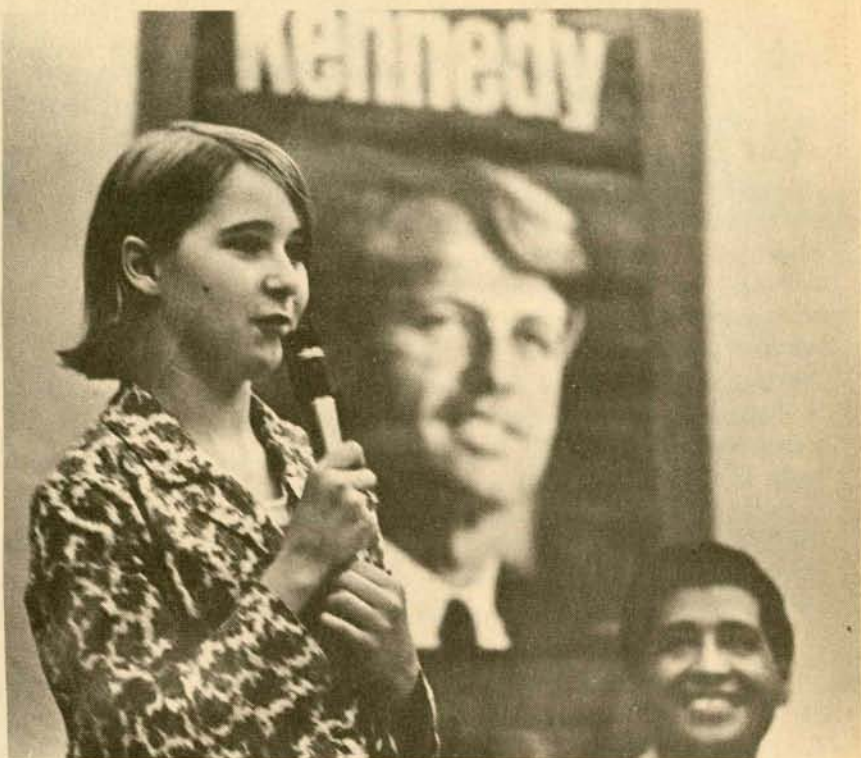
# Canadians Visit Vineyards

Wendy Collie climbed up to the platform, and Cesar Chavez handed her the microphone. She held on to it with both hands and then proceeded to explain to her Delano audience in a quiet and shy voice how grateful she was for having the opportunity to meet the farm workers of Coachella and Delano. Using a few well chosen words she went on to say that the people of Canada will continue to work hard and play their part in the farm workers struggle. She smiled briefly, glanced at the floor, and realizing that she was finished, gave the microphone back to Cesar and rejoined her delegation from Canada.

Wendy is fourteen years old, and was the youngest member of a group of 32 Canadians who came to the San Joaquin Valley in a demonstration of international solidarity with the farm workers of America. She has been working in her home town near Toronto, Ontario, in an effort to organize support for the boycott, and has been very effective in her school talking with teachers and students alike, encouraging them not to buy California grapes. This summer she will continue her work to strengthen boycott support within the rest of the community.

Earlier in the day Wendy had been walking the picket lines in Coachella and was the first Canadian to enter the fields and talk to the workers, asking them to leave their work and join the strike. By the end of the morning the entire Canadian delegation had followed her example, and had, by hook or by crook, made it into the fields. One carload of five was met by an angry grower who immediately ordered their arrest. After the police officer had examined their identification cards, however, they were told that they could leave--being union organizers they had not broken the trespass laws.

After the Huelguistas came in from the picket lines, Wendy and



*Wendy Collie speaks to farm workers in Delano*

her group drove up to Delano for the Robert Kennedy memorial mass, and meetings with union officials. They arrived in Delano for the mass and were later introduced to the union membership at Filipino Hall. Others from the delegation as well as Wendy spoke to their farm worker brothers. Dennis McDermott, President of the Canadian Labor Congress and Director of the UAW in Canada gave the key note address and presented the Canadian flag to UFWOC as an expression of international solidarity. Aubrey Golden read a number of the telegrams from brothers in Canada. Among the senders were the mayors of

Toronto, Quebec, and Windsor, The New Democratic Party of Canada, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canadian Council of Churches, as well as numerous labor and student groups, and some members of the Canadian Parliament.

Their visit ended on June 7 with a tour of UFWOC facilities in Delano, and a meeting with Cesar Chavez. Wendy and her Canadian brothers and sisters who were so warmly received by the people of Delano and Coachella have returned to Canada with new dedication to play their role in the farm workers struggle for social justice.



*The Canadian flag flies over Coachella Vineyards*



# VERA CRUZ SPARKS EUROPEAN GRAPE BOYCOTT

LONDON, ENGLAND, May 30-- Philip Vera Cruz, Vice-President of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, completed a ten-day visit to England and Sweden today hopeful that his visit would stimulate an even more effective European boycott of table grapes for the 1969 season. Vera Cruz, who spoke before the World Council of Churches Convention on Racism and talked with members of trade unions, churches, and student groups, said preparations are already underway to boycott any grapes sent to Europe this year.

American grapes are usually sent to Europe by boat in the winter months, December to March. This year, longshoremen in Norway, Sweden, and Finland voted to honor the boycott and refuse to unload scab grapes. Two shiploads of grapes were turned back from Sweden. Some shippers have announced that they will refuse to take orders for grapes to be shipped on their boats until the boycott is over.

Vera Cruz talked in London with Freddy Silverman and Brian Nickolson of the Transportation and General Workers Union. "They'll do their best to keep the grapes out of England," Vera Cruz stated. Vera Cruz also talked with Thorbjorn Carlsson, General Secretary of the Federation of Labor in Sweden, who promised full cooperation.

Vera Cruz also met with managers of the largest supermarket chains in Sweden and England, and asked them not to handle grapes. The local unions are also putting pressure on supermarkets and importers. But Vera Cruz notes that Safeway Stores even has its claws into the British economy, with a chain of 26 supermarkets in England.

High point of Vera Cruz's European visit was his appearance before the World Council of Churches convention. The World Council of Churches passed a resolution stating:

"THE BOYCOTT OF CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES IN SUPPORT OF THE STRIKE WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR MANY YEARS HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY CHRISTIANS ACROSS THE USA. IN VIEW OF THE LARGE EXPORTS OF CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES TO OVER 30 COUNTRIES, WE APPEAL TO CONCERNED CHRISTIANS AND OTHERS IN THESE COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THIS MOVEMENT..."

Vera Cruz stated that his visit and the grape boycott were given extensive coverage in the British and Swedish newspapers, and that he appeared on a nation-wide English T.V. program, "Farming Outlook", where he was interviewed by two farmers and by Terrance Hammond, a leader of the National Union of Agricultural Workers in England, a Union of over 110,000 members which has also promised its support for our struggle.



Philip Vera Cruz

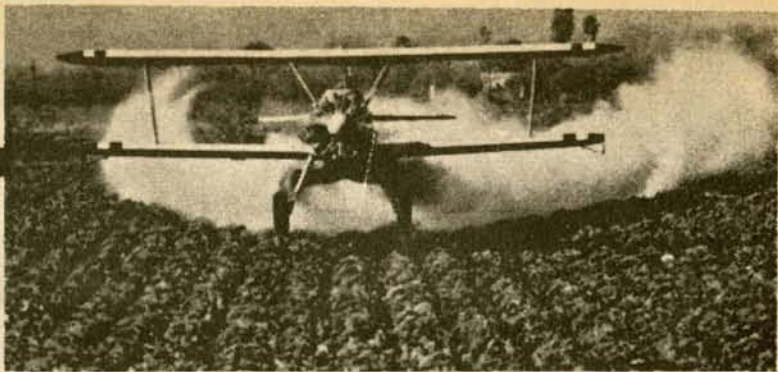
## BOYCOTT GRAPES!

"Skull" buttons, eagle buttons  
available at 50¢ each. Bump-  
er strips, 5 for \$1.00. From  
UFWOC, "El Malcriado",  
P. O. Box 130  
Delano, California 93215

All photos in this issue are by  
Bob Thurber, El Malcriado pho-  
tographer.



# PESTICIDE JUNGLE: THE GROWING MENACE



Spraying DDT: A long-lived legacy

DELANO, June 2--"More than 35,000 recorded applications of economic poisons were used in 1968 in the Delano area alone," stated Cesar Chavez, Director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, in a recent letter to Quintin Reynolds, President of Safeway Stores, largest purchaser of grapes in the nation. Over 100 tons of DDT are sprayed annually over grape vineyards, to name just the most common pesticide.

Chavez pointed out that virtually nothing has been done to curb the use of deadly pesticides such as parathion, malathion, and tetra-ethyl pyrophosphate (TEPP), all "nerve gasses" of the organophosphate group. Nor has anything been done to curb the use of DDT, dieldrin, aldrin, and endrin, whose residues do not decompose or dissolve readily in water and which remain toxic for ten years or more.

"More workers have reported symptoms of chemical poisoning this year than in the three previous years," Chavez's letter continued. "Vomiting, impairment of vision, severe skin rashes, acute nausea, and dizziness were the most common symptoms reported." To back up Chavez's warnings, Dr. Irma West of the California State Department of Public Health has revealed that statistics show that 200 to 300 California farm workers are poisoned every year from having to work in close proximity to these poisons or in fields where they have been sprayed. A dozen or more farm workers a year are fatally poisoned. And literally thousands suffer from skin infections and burns and other less serious effects.

Since the Union's campaign began over a year ago to regulate the use of these pesticides, virtually nothing has been done by growers or state officials to make meaningful reforms. The billion-dollar a year pesticide industry, growing at a rate of 16% a year and especially concentrated in California, has blocked even such basic minimum steps as banning the use of DDT. Even the California Farm Bureau has endorsed such a ban, but in spite of much publicity and study, nothing specific has been done to end the use of DDT.

The case of DDT is of special concern to farm workers because of its heavy use in the San Joaquin Valley, and because studies show that farm workers

already have dangerous amounts of DDT in their bodies. DDT concentrations in the human body have been linked with causing cancer, leukemia, and other diseases. An article in Medical World News (March 14, 1969) shows the proven link between DDT concentrations in mice and the rate of cancer.

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Robert Finch, in a recent statement calling for regulation of pesticides, noted "Current Food and Drug Administration studies show that Americans have an average of 12 parts per million of DDT in the fatty tissues of their bodies." HEW officials noted that the average American diet contains 10% more DDT than the limits recommended by the World Health Organization. HEW standards limit the DDT content in meat sold to the public to 7 parts per million, and in milk to .05 parts per million. Recently over 20,000 lbs. of fish taken from Lake Michigan were condemned for having concentrations of 12 parts per million of DDT. A small shipment of lettuce in Los Angeles was also recently condemned. But the government has no widespread testing or regulatory system.

Because of the Federal Government's close friendship with grape growers, nothing has been done about the 100 tons of DDT sprayed on grapes this year. Similarly, Safeway and other big chains have not revealed the danger to the public because several prominent grape growers sit on the Board of Directors of Safeway. There has been little or no testing of residues on grapes, or DDT content in grapes, by any government agencies. So the United Farm Workers was forced to file suit calling for grapes and other crops sprayed with DDT to be confiscated or withheld from the market. The case is expected to be tied up in the courts for too long to affect this year's harvests.

The Union has called on brokers and buyers and chain stores to voluntarily test grapes and other fruit and vegetables for DDT and other pesticides, and to voluntarily withhold poisoned crops from the market. Failing this, UFWOC has warned Safeway and the other big buyers of grapes that the Union will take the problem of the dangers of pesticides to the consumer public, as long as safeguards are not instituted.



# THE STRIKE IN COACHELLA

continued from page 3

there is the ride out to the camps, to talk to the workers while they eat their breakfasts, and we try to convince them to stay at home that day or find work elsewhere. Or perhaps we will surround a field, with huelguistas at each entrance, and meet the cars of the workers as they come in. We tell them about the strike, tell them of job opportunities in other crops, other areas, try to get them to join us.

The period from 4 to 5:30 AM is the most important time for picketing, before the work begins. Usually we turn away a few cars at each major field where we are picketing. Some of these new recruits may join us on the picket line for a few hours or a day. Others try to find another job before work begins at 5:30 or 6.

Once work begins it is very difficult to get workers to leave the fields. They see their boxes piling up; the eye of the foreman is always on them; the fight rages inside them, but they are afraid, they are desperately poor and need the money, they are skeptical that we can win. "I know, I know, and I'm for you," they say. "If the others go, I'll join," they say over and over, but each is afraid to be first, to lead his crew out. So we concentrate on educating them about the Union, the benefits, the better wages and health and life insurance, the working conditions and unemployment pay and job security, and all the other protections. No insults, no threats. Pleading and reasoning with them, over and over again, the reasons for the strike.

We tell them to leave the strike zone or find jobs in other crops. We talk through loud-speakers, or on a person-to-person basis if they are near enough. Often, if the boss is not around, the workers will beckon to us to come into the fields. This is what the bosses call "invasions," when 2 or 3, and up to 40 or 50 strikers will swarm into the fields and begin talking person-

to-person with the workers. Occasionally one of the younger strikers will dump out a box of grapes, but we try to avoid any destruction. The purpose of the invasions is to directly confront the workers with the reasons for the strike, while they are in the very act of breaking the strike.

When the growers or foremen arrive (usually in a rage at seeing their sacred private property violated) and demand that we leave, we leave peacefully, without protest. We have demonstrated that we are not afraid of the growers. At the least, we have disrupted that crew's work for 15 or 20 minutes. At best, their hearts go out of their work and either immediately or at noon, they pack up and leave for good.

Since we leave the fields when asked, and destroy no property, the growers have not been able to build any very serious cases of "trespassing" against us. The same is true of the "invasions" of the camps. We enter only when the workers want to talk to us, and in the camps, at least, as long as the workers say we can stay, the grower cannot legally evict us.

The picket lines usually come in at about 11 AM for a brief lunch and siesta during the 110° heat. While we rest, strike coordinator Pete Velasco and the picket captains meet to plan strategy for the evening, draw up new leaflets, talk to the press and visitors, and do the administrative work of the strike.

At about 4 PM we usually get up for dinner and a meeting. Pete tells of the morning's successes and failures, and discusses the evening activities. Then we go out and leaflet the local towns or visit the camps. Most growers have given up trying to throw us out, but our tireless lawyers, Dave Averbuck and Frank Dennison are ready if there is trouble anywhere.

It is on these evening visits and the early morning picketing, when you meet the huge majority of those who join the strike but who do not picket. Over 600 have signed strike statements so far. Many simply leave, without telling us or the boss.

Yes, they know of the sacrifices we have made. They know that their wages, still miserable, are higher this year than last year solely because of the strike. They know what we're trying to do and



Workers join up



they support us.

And sometimes grown men break down and cry, and say that they are ashamed to be working. And they promise to leave the strike zone and find work elsewhere. Sometimes they sign the cards stating that they have gone on strike. But our effectiveness goes far beyond the cards signed. At the Double V Camp, the crew boss, Matteo told us, "Sure, I know my boys want the Union. I had 60 men in my camp, and all I have now is 10 left. They all went north." Eight of the ten left agreed to join the sit-in or leave the strike zone.

Who then is breaking the strike and picking the grapes? Here as in every strike in the past, there are people crossing the picket lines. The march to the border dramatized the strike to the citizens of Mexico, and many are refusing to work in the grapes. Only one bus load of strike-breakers commutes from Mexicali to Coachella every morning, according to Manuel Chavez, in charge of organizing at the border. But dozens of cars commute daily, their owners driven by the thousands of hungry mouths and lack of work in Mexico.

And there are the Texans and "green-carders" from Tamaulipas and Nueva Leon, who have moved into the camps and are impressed by wages which are double the wages in their home areas.

And there are Filipinos and local Mexican-American workers who are still working, still helping the growers to delay our victory. Each of these groups has contributed many brave workers to the strike. Each has its share of strikebreakers. It would be unfair to blame any one group for breaking the strike, though the local Chicanos and Filipinos have obviously contributed most towards victory.



Above: PETE VELASCO,

## COACHELLA STRIKE 'LEADER

Will we win the strike? By the 12th day of harvest, growers had only shipped out 60% as many grapes as at this time last year. Coachella growers claim to have lost \$2 million last year because of the strike and boycott. If that is true, their losses this year should be staggering. But the big growers can afford to hold out. They are millionaire corporations and are under great pressure from the Farm Bureau and other agribusiness interests to fight the Union to the death, even if it means destroying the grape industry.

year is the boycott. If you could see the strikers' eyes as they talk of the grape boycott, as they talk with pride of those of you who have traveled all over the continent, or have joined in, in your home towns, to launch the "Don't Buy Grapes" campaign.

The Coachella strikers are the first to remind you that the strike and boycott are like a boxers' left and right arms, both necessary to win the struggle for a decent life for the farm worker. The Coachella strike of 1969 is an especially beautiful and heroic manifestation of the workers' determination to win that victory.

The trump card for the strike this



Women on picket line



# WORKERS LEAVE FIELD, GROWER FLIPS OUT

COACHELLA, June 12 -- Irving Feldstein is one of those ranchers who has traditionally had absolute control over the workers on his ranch. But on this historic morning, Feldstein's unchallenged control over his workers was shaken to its very roots, and the bosses acted with characteristic violence which has repeatedly brought the farm workers' struggle to the verge of tragedy.

Feldstein had a crew of approximately 65 workers who had just begun picking at 5:30 AM when the UFWOC picket line arrived. Immediately, word about the Filipino workers who had the morning before had a sit-in strike at Bagdasarian Camp #2 spread throughout the crew of workers. The Feldstein workers, who had been picketted the day before and were already more than sympathetic with the goals of the Union, began to waver.

Then a local woman put down her box of grapes and said, "I'm leaving. Who is man enough to join me?" A man from Gilroy walked over to the picket line and recognized Jose Luna, leader of the Union in Hollister. He too joined the picket line. Then a group of young Texans walked out. They began calling to the other Texans by name, and then went back into the fields to convince them to leave. And slowly people began to head for their cars. Within an hour, the field was empty of workers, except for the foremen.

Feldstein then drove up in his shiny new Cadillac. His freshly starched white shirt was wet with sweat, his eyes red, his fury barely under control. Jumping out of his car, he grabbed a small ax and waving it threateningly, ordered Alberto Galindo of Phoenix to "get off my property."

Galindo was in the public roadway, holding a picket sign. EL MALCRIADO photographer Bob Thurber caught sight of the hatchet and tried to photograph the scene. Feld-

stein quickly tried to hide the ax, and then put it under the set of the car.

To the grower's surprise, the police came over and immediately began asking questions, to find out the facts about the incident. Feldstein, faced with possible arrest for brandishing a deadly weapon, went almost hysterical with rage. He demanded that the cops arrest all of the strikers and accused one striker of going into the fields beating up women. The police, who had observed the entire exodus of the workers from the fields, could barely suppress their smiles at these wild charges.

Alfredo Vasquez, UFWOC picket captain, ordered all the strikers back to their cars or at least to the other side of the street, and ordered no shouting or comments. He ordered the strikers to ignore

the grower and seven foremen who were now massed in the roadway and were hurling threats and insults at the strikers.

Suddenly the grower and foremen charged across the street and attacked the few remaining strikers. A 200-pound foreman slammed into young Tony Lopez. Feldstein headed for Thurber, smashed the camera into his face, cutting his lip and forehead, and then knocked the camera to the ground. Thurber barely missed a second blow as he ducked to retrieve his camera.

The strikers remained non-violent and the police rushed in to prevent any real tragedy and to restore order. Only the strikers' non-violent commitment and the fairness of the police prevented the incident from developing into major injuries.

## COWBOY PREACHES "WAR OF NERVES"

COACHELLA, June 18--An almost hysterical Alan Grant went to Coachella today to try to rally beleaguered grape growers to a fight to the death with the Union. Grant is a dairy farmer, with nothing to lose from the strike and boycott. He is president of the California Farm Bureau and President of the State Board of Agriculture. He used his state position to try to drum up anti-Union fanaticism.

Grant called the boycott "illicit." He also admitted that it was the

trump card of the Union. He called on all growers to stand together in what he called "this war of nerves." He denounced the growers offering to open talks with the Union. And though he said he could point to "nothing specific", Grant said that the Union was "Violent" and "coercive."

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: Mr. Grant should go back to milking cows, and stop trying to persuade the grape growers to commit suicide.

Police check out Feldstein after incident





# GRAPE PROFITS, PRODUCTION IN TAIL SPIN



*Cars of workers leave the fields to join the strike*

The strike in Coachella, coupled with the international boycott of table grapes, has resulted in frantic and sometimes contradictory actions on the part of the growers, and has already drastically changed the market picture for the 1969 table grape crop. Though effects on individual growers can not yet be ascertained, some of the overall effects of the strike and boycott are already apparent in Federal government marketing reports for the grape industry.

Predictably, the growers have raised wages to unheard-of levels. One Filipino crew was getting 70¢ a box, a very high wage for the peak season. The common wage was \$1.65 an hour plus 25¢ a box, so most workers were making from \$2.50 to \$3.50 an hour during the harvest. Very few growers offered less than this, and many offered more. These "good" wages will last only for six weeks, and with the end of the season will drop back to \$1.65 or \$1.40. But even the most hardened scabs can see in their paychecks the beneficial results of the Union and the strike.

When the workers began the strike in 1965, they were asking for \$1.40 an hour and 25¢ a box. The growers said then that they could not afford to pay that much. So the rise in wages is certainly a great victory for the Union, and proves conclusively that the growers can afford present wages and more. However, the growers are frank to admit that if the Union can be broken, if the "agitation" can be ended, then they will lower the wages back to a "more normal" level.

The growers also rushed into the harvest in a desperate effort to pick all the grapes as soon as possible. Traditionally, table grapes are picked and packed in three different grades, according to quality. This year, most growers packed everything, green grapes, over-ripe grapes, undersized grapes, and water berries, in one grade. "They're scared to death of the strike or they wouldn't pick these grapes for another week," commented an experienced Filipino striker as he picketed a crew of unskilled workers picking and packing unripe grapes.

But the mad rush to get the harvest in, and the resulting low quality of the grapes, has contributed (in addition to the boycott) to a disastrous plunge in prices. A typical drop in prices was from \$10 a lug (22-lb. box) last year to \$6 a lug this year, as of the second week of the harvest, according to the U.S. Agriculture Departments' grape marketing report.

And in spite of a 10% larger crop this year, Coachella's growers are shipping out only about 60% as many grapes as last year. The marketing reports state that as of the 12th day of the season last year, Coachella growers had shipped out 1,125,091 lugs of grapes. This year a total of 689,214 had been shipped out, and at only 70% of last year's price per lug. (Figures from Grape Report #12, U.S. Federal Marketing Service Report).

By the third week of the harvest, growers had shipped 240 car lots of grapes this year, as compared to 373 car lots last year, according to the Marketing Report of June 13.

As of June 6, total combined rail and truck deliveries of grapes to the 41 major cities of North America were the equivalent of 71 car lots (at 1250 lugs per railroad car), compared to 209 last year.

Growers claim that the harvest is off only about 15% and that that is due partly to cooler weather. But even the growers admit that the price per lug is down. Growers expected that in spite of the boycott they would be getting \$7 to \$8 per lug this year. The prices are averaging \$5 to \$6. As Lionel Steinberg, president of the largest grape ranch in Coachella admitted, "The boycott has definitely been hurting us."

Obviously, the grapes are already piling up in cold storage. With Arizona and Arvin grapes due to hit the market in another two weeks, the whole sale price per lug should quickly drop below \$5 a lug. Grape growers appear to be in for whopping losses this year if they can find any market at all for their grapes.

But this also means that now is the crucial period for the boycott to tighten the screws. If the boycott can close off enough markets and force the price down low enough by early July, there is a good chance that all the major Arvin and Delano growers will decide to negotiate rather than see their profit margin go down the drain.

If you can help us win this victory, please immediately get in touch with your local boycott office, or call Juanita Brown, grape boycott coordinator, at 805 - 725 - 1314, (collect) for more information on how you can help us bring ALL the growers to the bargaining table.



## SIT IN

continued from page 2

legal staff of the AFL-CIO will help the workers to protect their rights.

"This is an historic day for all farm workers" said UFWOC strike leader Pete Velasco. "These brave workers will be a symbol for the other workers, and we hope that the sit-in will spread from camp to camp, to every grower that still refuses to recognize the Union."

About 500 workers live in the 18 major camps of the Coachella Valley, and UFWOC leaders estimate that about 350 workers were sitting in or had left by June 16.



Playing Cards while Sitting In

## NEGOTIATIONS

continued from page 3

tions by the ten growers seeking negotiations as "Un-American and Un-Christian."

The growers who offered to begin negotiations with UFWOC are led by Lionel Steinberg, president of the Douglas Freedman Ranch, largest grape grower in the Coachella Valley; and John Kovacevich, prominent Arvin-area grape grower. Other growers offering to negotiate include Bianco Fruit Co., Mel-Pack Ranches, Karahadian Ranches, Heggeblade-Marguleas Co. (all of the Coachella Valley) and El Rancho Farms, Eugene Nalbandian Inc., William Mosesian Co., and S.A. Camp Farms (all of the Arvin-Lamont

District of Kern County).

In commenting on why they were breaking with the previously united front of anti-Union growers, Steinberg said bluntly that the worldwide boycott of grapes "has definitely been hurting us." Production costs this season have been around \$5.50 to \$6.00 a lug, he said, while the market price is averaging \$5.50.

Steinberg then said, "If we have a conference and discussions with the Union and we see that there is a give-and-take attitude on their part, there is no question that we are prepared to recognize UFWOC as the collective bargaining agent."

Packing grapes at Karahadian Ranch, one of the ten growers offering to negotiate





# STRIKE HITS ARIZONA VINEYARDS

TOLLESON, ARIZONA, June 17 -- The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee launched its first major strike in Arizona today as 150 grape workers answered the call, HUELGA! The strike is concentrated against two major grape growers, J. G. Boswell Farms and Arrowhead Ranch. Six crews, totaling over 150 workers joined the walk-out and less than 30% of the work force remained in the fields.

UFWOC spokesmen warned that the struggle in Arizona was just beginning. Arizona is a "right-to-work" state with labor legislation almost as backward as Texas. Already two arrests have been made, including Mel Huey, editor of the UFWOC newspaper "El Paisano." Huey and another young man were charged with "blocking traffic."

Boswell, who is on the board of directors of Safeway stores and owns much of Kings County, California,

receives over \$4 million a year for not planting cotton and has become a millionaire from government subsidies and by paying his workers starvation wages. Arizona farm

workers show great courage in tackling this agribusiness giant. But it may be some time before the farm workers bring him to his knees.

## BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED

On June 27-28, boycott committees all over the country will again be participating in a nationwide demonstration in the escalation of the Safeway campaign. During prime shopping time, Friday night and Saturday, boycotters will be distributing leaflets concerning the dangers of pesticides to farmworkers' health at Safeway Stores all over the West and major target chains all over the East.

The major goals of the nationwide "Leaflet-In" are:

1. To educate as much of the public as possible on the misuse of pesticides and the dangerous effects

this has for the health of farmworkers and consumers. To make the public aware that, because of the lack of governmental control, the only way to regulate the use of pesticides and protect the health of farm workers and consumers is a strong Union contract.

2. To stop consumers from buying grapes and from shopping at stores that sell them -- for the boycott is the only way that the Union can win fair contracts covering pesticide control, ending once and for all the systematic poisoning of our people.

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