



# DELANO

## NEWSLETTER

FARM WORKERS' INFORMATION Box 130 Delano, Calif.

"The time has come for the liberation of the poor farm worker"

### THE PLAN OF DELANO

Volume I

Issue 3

## FARM WORKER PICKET LINES SHAKE STATE

The week of October 14-21 we had picket lines throughout the length of California from Los Angeles to San Francisco. In Los Angeles pickets stopped deliveries of Goldberg grape trucks. In Delano the picket line maintained its 24 hour vigil, stopping many trucks from loading and leaving the Goldberg packing shed. In Fresno more than 200 pickets at the Southern Pacific Railroad yards stopped the handling of scab grapes for a whole night. In San Francisco Arvin farm workers confronted Di Giorgio personally as well as with a picket line in order to gain elections. All of these lines were manned by farm workers and supporters. These supporters have remained on the front lines of our struggle throughout a difficult year of strike and boycott. More important, they have remained with us beyond the few initial victories which by no means ended the fight. With their help, we have new victories to report concerning farm workers in a battle still not over.

## ELECTIONS AT DI GIORGIO-ARVIN? SI

In a recent Newsletter we reported that the farm workers at the Di Giorgio Ranch in Arvin still had not had elections due to lack of cooperation on the part of the Einar Mohn Teamsters and Di Giorgio.

PETITION FOR ELECTIONS. The Arvin farm workers took action. A group of them went to Governor Brown's mansion in Los Angeles on Thursday October 12 and presented him with a petition bearing 384 names of workers requesting union elections at Arvin. The Governor then sent each person who had signed the petition a letter in which he commended them for bringing the petition to him. He said that he had been working on their problem and he suggested that they work on it with him by going to present their grievance directly to Mr. Robert Di Giorgio. The workers decided to do just what the Governor had suggested and headed for San Francisco to request elections of Robert Di Giorgio.

FARM WORKERS CONFRONT DI GIORGIO IN SAN FRANCISCO. On Wednesday October 18 representatives of the Arvin farm workers arrived at 350 Sansome St., the headquarters of the Di Giorgio Corporation in the "Wallstreet of San Francisco". When the workers arrived 300 union leaders and Bay Area supporters had already begun a picket line at the Di Giorgio offices. The Teatro Campesino presented their already famous actos on the back of a flat bed truck for all financiers and passersby to see, demonstrating the farm workers' struggle for elections in face of Company and Teamster opposition.

BAY AREA UNIONS DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH FARM WORKERS. Men and women of organized labor demonstrated firm solidarity with the farm workers and their cause. Officers and members

UNITED FARM WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AFL-CIO  
(NFWA and AWOC)

P.O. Box 130

Delano, California 93215

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of the San Francisco Labor Council, the Alameda County Central Labor Council and members of many locals walked the picket line at Di Giorgio's office. Unions represented included: ILWU, ILGWU, Carpenters, Tile Layers, Plumbers, Retail Clerks, Teamsters, CCEU, AFT, IAM and others. Tim Twomey, Sec. of the Hospital Workers Local and Vice Pres. of the San Francisco Labor Council, Dick Groulx, Executive Assistant Sec. of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, Bob McLane, Business Rep. of the Public Employees Union 1675, Rodney Larson, International Representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and Bert Donlin, Ex. Bd. member of ILWU, Local 10, accompanied the farm workers to Di Giorgio's office and were arrested with them. Such union solidarity brought victories in the past and it will bring victory for the farm worker today.

The workers representatives, Mac Lyons, Arthur Kemplin, and Luis Chavez with the labor leaders went to Robert Di Giorgio's office. When they insisted upon seeing no one but Mr. Di Giorgio, they were told they had to have an appointment. They said they would wait. The police arrived, placed them under arrest and ushered them to the nearest elevator. When they reached the first floor the police placed them out of arrest, so the delegation got on the next elevator and went back upstairs only to be removed again.

The workers and their labor friends returned to the office the following morning and met with Mr. Di Giorgio at 10:00 a.m. They opened an hour and a half meeting by presenting their letters from Governor Brown. They requested immediate elections. Di Giorgio said he would recommend November 11 as an election date and would wait for the response of the Teamsters. The workers remained firm, repeating their demand for an immediate election and pointing out that Di Giorgio should feel no necessity to check with the Teamsters concerning their request for elections. Mr. Di Giorgio finally agreed to have an immediate election. However the workers then countered with a request that the promise be made in writing. Mr. Di Giorgio told them to return at 2:00 p.m. for the written promise.

At 2:00 p.m. Di Giorgio presented the written "promise". The workers read it on the spot and found that it said nothing about elections. It "promised" that the delegation of workers would not lose their jobs upon returning to Arvin. The workers gave Mr. Di Giorgio his "promise" and protested the fraud he had attempted to perpetrate.

ARREST OF FARM WORKERS AND UNION OFFICIALS. Di Giorgio called the police. The farm workers were arrested for trespassing in their own employer's office while requesting the right of election upon the advice of the Governor of the state. The labor officials were arrested with them. The pickets maintained their line in front of the offices the rest of the day.

The next day more farm workers and labor officials went to the office to make another request for elections. They were arrested in the lobby before they ever reached the office.

POLICE VIOLENCE. At 4:00 p.m. the same afternoon police singled out a picket, arrested him and took him away in a patrol car. When he requested reason for arrest, he was hit across the head with handcuffs. He was later treated for head lacerations. Of course this is only one more instance of police brutality to our consistently non-violent pickets.

## DiGIORGIO WIRES GOVERNOR

With a persistent picket line and repeated arrests of their own workers and important labor officials, Di Giorgio was suffering from bad publicity and increasing pressures from farm worker supporters. Robert Di Giorgio wired Governor Brown requesting that a meeting be held to resolve the election problem. The meeting was set for the following Tuesday, October 24, at the State Conciliation office in San Francisco.

Attending the meeting for the Di Giorgio Corporation were Robert Di Giorgio, Joe Brotherton, and Donald Connors. Representing UFWOC was Fred Ross, Bill Kircher, and Dolores Huerta. Mac Lyons represented the Arvin Farm Workers. Elections were set for November 4. It was decided that the elections should proceed under the recommendations of Mr. Ronald Haughton and Mr. Sam Kagle of the American Arbitration Association, under Mr. Haughton's recommendations of September 20th which guarantees the workers the same protections as the Sierra Vista voters.

## BROWN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE Teamsters Not on Ballot

Governor Brown held a press conference attended by Cesar Chavez and the farm workers who had been to San Francisco to see Mr. Di Giorgio and representatives of Di Giorgio. The Governor announced the election at Arvin and also announced that there would be an election with only one union on the ballot. The governor asked that in the interests of peace in the Valley the Teamsters should withdraw from the election at Arvin and in other areas where UFWOC is organizing. He also asked that UFWOC respect the Teamsters where they are organizing.



The Governor commended the Teamsters Union for their cooperation in bringing about an election agreement, and furthering the cause of organizing farm workers. The teamsters commented that they were acting in the best interests of the farm workers.

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# ELECTIONS AT GOLDBERG? SI

In our Special Bulletin Newsletter we reported that a Goldberg truck ran down Manuel Rivera. In the days that followed our pickets maintained such constant pressure on the company that they finally agreed to elections.

The 24 hour picket line of from 75-200 pickets challenged all trucks entering or leaving the packing shed in Delano. They turned many away by telling them of the strike. They slowed down the progress of others and often got promises of no return. On the Sunday evening after the Rivera incident, one truck got through our lines loaded with grapes. A group of our pickets immediately began a chase which took them to Los Angeles. The truck and our pursuing pickets were met in L.A. by our staff there, Eli Risco and Mike Wittenberg, with 25 pickets. The pickets stuck with the truck through the night and the early morning hours stopping delivery of the grapes at every attempt, delaying the truck for 8 hours. This tactic used again proved a powerful weapon in bringing Goldberg around.

POLICE BREAK PICKET LINES. In the meantime the police continued to break up our picket lines at the storage shed. At 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 18, we had stopped another truck. Twenty helmeted riot police stationed around the corner marched in column formation on the picket line, broke it up with their clubs, allowed the truck to pass through, and then withdrew to their station around the corner.

COMPANY ISSUES INJUNCTIONS. At this point a representative from the Kern County Sheriff's office gave the picket captain and many pickets a copy of an order to--appear in court and show cause why our picket line should not be enjoined and restrained from mass picketing and why our pickets should not be limited to 5 pickets per location. The police captain interpreted this as an immediate restraining order. Gil Padilla, UFWOC Vice Pres., challenged him and interpreted it as merely an order to appear and show cause. However, the police captain had his riot squad facing the picket line with drawn clubs ready to make immediate arrests. We withdrew to discuss it with a lawyer and left five pickets at the shed.

Gil Padilla was right and on the following day, returned with 25 pickets. However, another court order was issued and this one proved to be an immediate temporary restraining order and we were reduced to 10 pickets, 5 at each entrance. Twenty-four hour picketing continued.

MEETINGS WITH THE COMPANY. Representatives of the workers and UFWOC met with Moses Mosesian and John Hourigan of the Goldberg company and discussed wages, conditions as well as elections on both Friday and Saturday. Another meeting was set for Tuesday. Very little was accomplished at these meetings.

PICKET LINE PUTS ON PRESSURE. Once again pickets followed a grape truck to Los Angeles. A large sign on the pickets' truck read, CAUTION - SCAB LOAD AHEAD. Another sign read, DANGER - HOT GRAPES. Again there were pickets waiting in L.A. At the Central Produce Market they stopped the truck from unloading. The driver called his boss in Fresno who told him to wait to talk to the broker. The Goldberg broker appeared at about 2:00 a.m. and pickets were still keeping the truck out of the market. TV and press had covered the whole incident. He spent the next 3 hours trying to find another company to take his grapes. Finally one company agreed to take 1/3 of the load. At 7:00 a.m. he was still trying to find a buyer for the rest of his grapes. To quote the driver, "I would never have picked up the grapes if I had known about the strike." The Goldberg company had tricked him into picking up the grapes in the fields without knowledge of the strike.

HOURIGAN UNDER PRESSURE. In the meantime, back in Delano, John Hourigan was kept informed of the difficulties of the truck. At 4:00 a.m. he awakened Larry Itliong by phone and sounding somewhat disturbed, he said, "Get that picket line away from my truck!" Larry's reply was, "You sound ready to sign a contract." A meeting was set for noon that day, Thursday, October 27.

CONTINUED PICKET PRESSURE BRINGS AGREEMENT. There was no agreement signed at the noon meeting. In mid afternoon the pickets convinced another truck not to pick up grapes. Hourigan came to the line and asked the pickets to let the truck cross. The pickets refused.



At a 5:00 o'clock meeting that afternoon Hourigan signed an agreement for elections. The agreement, in the form of a letter to the State Mediation and Conciliation Service was signed by John T. Hourigan and Dolores Huerta. On Tuesday November 1, a meeting was held to set the date and procedures for the election. The election will be held on November 15, 1966 from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Goldberg & Sons shed in Delano. All agricultural workers who have worked between May 15 and October 28, 1966, will be eligible to vote. The agreement specifically guarantees the following:

In the event there is a union selected in an appropriate collective bargaining unit, negotiations leading to a collective bargaining agreement shall commence immediately, and will continue and to be completed within 30 (thirty) days after the date of certification. The Employer, further stipulates that the collective bargaining agreement shall contain provisions for a full union shop, a dues check-off upon proper employer authorization and that the union will be the prime source of labor for the Employer.

Since we had already filed with the NLRB concerning elections in the Goldberg packing shed prior to the shed workers walkout, elections there are pending an NLRB hearing which will take place Thursday, November 3.

The effectiveness of persistent pickets and boycott activities is more than clear. Such boycotts with the immediate response of our supporters is what will bring the other 30 growers to sign agreements.

## FARM WORKERS HIT SOUTHERN PACIFIC

At 2 minutes of 11 on Wednesday night, October 18, everything was calm and peaceful at the large main valley Southern Pacific freight yards in Fresno. At 2 minutes after 11, as the shift began changing, suddenly 200 farm workers and their supporters appeared, forming information picket lines at all 10 employee entrances. As a result, the evening crews went home, but no night crews went to work. The freight that should have been switched just sat. The pickets stayed for one shift and departed as suddenly as they appeared, leaving behind frustrated, confused supervisors. According to well-informed sources, the following afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Southern Pacific was trying to send out trains that should have left at 6:00 a.m. The poor farm workers, supported by their fellow unionists in the AFL-CIO were able to stop the mighty Southern Pacific, which is both the main shipper of valley produce and itself perhaps California's largest grower. We are certain the growers noticed that we, too, affect whether or not their goods get to market, and that we have real, committed support from unionists in other branches of the AFL-CIO.

## TEXAS BORDER ARRESTS

The strikers in Rio Grande, Texas, are close to starvation from lack of funds and insufficient support. Their strike is being broken by scabs who cross the border every day from Mexico. On Monday October 24, Gene Nelson and other leaders of the strike went to the one lane borderline bridge at Roma to inform Mexican Nationals, "Green Card Workers" of their strike and their efforts to gain a state minimum wage and improved working conditions. The strikers blocked passage on the bridge and stopped the flow of traffic for several hours. When the police came to arrest them, the strikers stepped over the line into Mexican Territory. After two hours of line crossing, Mexican authorities were called. A large number of police with guns and clubs formed a flying wedge and pushed the protestors into U.S. territory where American police placed 12 strikers under arrest including Gene Nelson and two women. One striker suffered lacerations and swelling of the wrist from the handcuffs. One of the women fainted from the pain of a twisted shoulder when arrested.

## DIGIORGIO CONTRACT-UP FOR ARBITRATION

Joe Serda, chairman of the negotiating committee, reported at our membership meeting last Friday that the last meeting within the bargaining time limit was held on October 26. There were still points on which neither party could agree. These will go to the American Arbitration Association and the resulting contract will be signed by both parties. The first arbitration meeting is December 1 with Ronald Haughton and Sam Kagle as arbitrators.



# PERELLI-MINETTI—STRIKE & BOYCOTT

In Delano there is routine picketing daily at each of the struck growers. The hot, intense picketing is all at Perelli-Minetti. The Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe is there at the entrance to the ranch headquarters and winery. Picketing continues 24 hours a day. Efforts are being made to prevent the normal flow of trucking and railway traffic, and particularly the shipping of scab Perelli-Minetti products. Intense efforts are made to convince strike-breaking field workers not to come in. Leaflets have been distributed door-to-door in all surrounding towns asking workers not to work at Perelli-Minetti. We do not at present ask winery workers to honor our line. They have just won an NLRB election (24-15 with 40 company challenges) but do not have the protection of a union contract. Out-of-town help on the stepped-up Perelli-Minetti Boycott is needed. We have consumer boycott picket lines in front of uncooperative liquor stores in 10 cities now, and have representatives in a number of cities going to retail outlets, asking them to put boycotted products in storage and not to order any for the duration of the boycott. A beautiful two-color boycott poster suitable for hanging on walls or in windows is available for 25¢ apiece.

## FOOD FOR STRIKING FAMILIES

Several thousand letters went out to churchmen last week, inviting them to meet in Delano on November 12th and to bring food for the strikers with them. We used a new mailing list, so many of you have been bringing food regularly were not asked again. Since the response to our mailing has been rather light, and since our need for food is acute at this time, we are urging anyone who has a carload or more of food for the strikers to come to Delano on Saturday November 12. The day's program will be roughly as follows: 11-12 deliver food to 102 Albany Street, Delano. 12-1--join the strikers for lunch at Filipino Hall, 1157 Glenwood Street; 1-3--a meeting with Cesar Chavez, Rev. Wayne Hartmire of the Migrant Ministry, and striking families. 3-4:30--optional tour of the Delano strike area, group discussions with strikers and organizers. If you are free this Saturday, please plan to come and visit us.

## ATTENTION SUPPORTERS

The Delano Newsletter in its present form is a new effort. We want to keep all of our supporters well informed about the Delano strike and the farm workers struggle. Please fillout the form below. Indicate whether you want to keep receiving the Newsletter. Please add the names and addresses of friends who want to keep informed. If you do not want to receive the Newsletter, let us know. We are counting on continued, well-informed support. VIVA LA CAUSA!

## MANUEL RIVERA

According to our nurses Manuel Rivera is doing well considering his injuries. He must remain in traction for a long time and it will be a good while before he will be able to walk again. He is receiving visitors and seems in good spirits. If you have not done so, we still encourage you to send him and his family cards c/o UFWOC, P.O. Box 130, Delano, Calif.

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Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for food for the striking families.