

# UFW Sues USDA On Food Stamp Plan

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UFW

AFL-CIO

## EL MALCRIADO

La Voz del Campesino

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## UFW WINS JOBLESS AID FOR FARMWORKERS

### A VICTORY FOR THE UNION:

Delano, Calif.—United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, signed up more than 2,000 farm workers for unemployment benefits in early January, the opening drive in a social service campaign to help the country's most disadvantaged poor people survive the deepening recession.

The UFW's Campesino Centers, scattered throughout California's vast agricultural valleys, began the sign-up drive January 6 after President Ford signed emergency legislation December 31 to extend unemployment aid to an estimated 12 million Americans never before protected—farm workers, domestic workers and government workers.

"That law is really ours," said Cesar Chavez, director of the UFW, at a meeting of more than 50 social services personnel January 4 who planned the jobless aid campaign. "We started fighting for unemployment benefits for farm workers in 1949, but we couldn't even get a hearing in the legislature. Now they've made it law almost overnight. It's a victory for the union," he said.

Less than two weeks later, an applauding crowd of union members heard Ben Maddock, Delano UFW director, report that 1,200 unemployed workers were helped to sign up for aid in Delano, Porterville, Wasco and Lamont.

Several hundred more farm workers were signed up at the union's Campesino Centers in Marysville/Yuba City, Davis, Livingston, Salinas, Calexico, San Ysidro, Coachella, Oxnard, Selma, Guadalupe, Blythe and King City in California; and at El Mirage in Arizona.

The unemployment aid for farm workers is being administered by the State Employment Development Department (EDD) in California, and state officials quickly acknowledged the leadership provided by the

union in obtaining the emergency assistance to the jobless.

For example, the San Ysidro EDD office manager, Manuel R. Camacho, commended the UFW Campesino Center there for its help. He wrote Mrs. Minnie Ybarra, the union representative saying, "You have helped these applicants . . . you made it easier for the claimants and for us to serve their needs. I commend you for your quick response to help in this program."

The union's program won approval from high-level officials including Gene Lynch, deputy in the Health and Welfare Department; John S. Calderas, Los Angeles EDD regional chief; Frank Shaw, chief of insurance payments in Riverside County; Joe Urgeude, deputy director of EDD; Jan Redmond of the State Manpower Training Office; and Roger Pelz, EDD district administrator for Kern, Kings and Tulare Counties.

Shaw and Pelz took the lead in clearing up local-level snafus in the state's unemployment program. Pelz visited union headquarters at La Paz and helped train union members at Delano to process the unemployed farm workers' claims. Shaw ordered local officials to conduct eligibility interviews the same day workers applied after the union blamed interview scheduling for causing a bottleneck in the process.

Despite this, the state program was attracting far fewer farm workers than were estimated to be eligible, and the union received more appeals for help.

Los Angeles regional EDD chief, John Calderas, for example, wrote to Cesar Chavez:

"Knowing of your interest and concern for farm workers, I feel sure that you will honor our request for assistance . . . these people are not



IN FROM THE COLD. One of the more than 2,000 now eligible for unemployment benefits and one of the 12 million Americans never before protected. Photo was taken at the Delano Campesino Center by EL MALCRIADO photographer Ben Garza.

showing up at our state offices in the numbers expected. We believe that the reason is that the information has not reached them. Can you help . . . ?"

James D. Lorenz, Jr., the state EDD director, informed the union: "Despite the deepening recession, thousands of Californians are failing to apply . . . If not corrected soon, this oversight will cost unemployed workers as much as \$2,340 apiece during 1975 . . . We need

your help in informing people about the new benefits . . ."

The U.S. Department of Labor's Manpower Administration also recommended the state get help from the United Farm Workers.

The union, however, found evidence that the state's failure to enroll unemployed farm workers at a maximum level was not due solely to a lack of information. Insufficient staff, lack of bilingual personnel and local

officials who pushed time-consuming interviews to the limit also were blamed.

Ann McGregor, UFW Campesino Centers coordinator, said, "We have to do a job the government is failing to do. We'll have to test some of these rules because they're changing every day, since the legislation is so new and they're still working out the ground-rules. But farm workers are proud people, (Cont'd on Page 2)



# UFW Wins Jobless Aid for Farmworkers

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they never liked taking handouts, so we've got to make this the year of the farm worker's liberation from the welfare rolls."

UFW attorney Steve Burton said the full weight of Congress was behind the emergency legislation and that the union should not tolerate any delays in the states' administration of the unemployment assistance.

Chavez added that any time union members encountered delays from state officials, "they should get a fight. You can call for an investigation, send a petition, put up a picket line. The state officials know there aren't any wage records in farm labor, and if they hassle our workers, we're going to have to fight them, and do it right away."

The prediction, unfortunately, came true in Kern County, where the EDD deputy office manager in Bakersfield, Mrs. Davis, said the interviews of workers were taking up to an hour or more each. "We know they don't keep records," she said. "They had in the past no good reason to keep records. The only thing we can do is try to jiggle their memories. We kind of hit them over the head and tell them to keep their check stubs."

Her boss, H.G. Seavers, had warned farm workers before the program began January 6, "Interviews will be longer and the waiting to be interviewed will be long and tedious. So applications must be scheduled in advance." One of Seavers' employees in Wasco even

called the police when union members insisted the interview process be speeded up. Other union members were thrown out of EDD offices in Delano, Porterville and Fresno when they tried to assist the program. The threat of a picket line in Porterville resulted in immediate action from higher-level state officials, however.

The state officials' planning problem apparently is a lack of information on how many farm workers are eligible. Before the benefit program began, officials estimated 150,000 to 200,000 workers would be eligible. Ten days later, an EDD official put the eligibility figure at 30,000, and reported only 10,000 had signed up.

Another EDD official was quoted as saying in Sacramento:

"We know it's going to be a biggie—probably the biggest since 1946. It's going to be darn rough. We expect the major impact from agricultural workers. We'll be dealing with a lot of people who don't speak English."

The state unemployment rate, meanwhile, hit nine percent in December, with an estimated 749,000 Californians out of work but with only 385,000 receiving unemployment benefits. The state employment department guessed there were some 300,000 unemployed farm workers.

The swelling unemployment rolls made the union's social services

program more important than ever. Campesino Coordinator McGregor said the union would have to offer more help in the areas of public service jobs, income tax refunds, food stamps and aid to the elderly, as well as the unemployment assistance campaign.

She said the Campesino Centers were expanding from their California-Arizona base to help farm workers in other parts of the country, including Washington state, Texas and Florida.

"The government has finally agreed to make money available for the farm workers," she said, "but our job is to help them actually get it."

**Utility Workers of America  
Local 140  
Carl McConnell  
Adamsville, Pennsylvania**

**International Union of  
Electrical, Radio, and Machine  
Workers, AFL-CIO,  
Washington, D.C.**

**Southwestern  
States Council  
Sacramento, Calif.**

**Retail Clerks Union,  
Local 1442  
Santa Monica, Calif.**

**Contra Costa County  
Employers Association  
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**California Labor Federation,  
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Lavine Heaps, Secretary-Treasurer  
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AFL-CIO  
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Joseph Bober, Secretary-Treasurer  
Hamden, Connecticut**

**Retail Store Employees Union,  
Local 373  
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Vallejo, Calif.**

**United Rubber Workers,  
Local 45,  
Rita Ruggiero, Treasurer  
Naugatuck, Connecticut**



## 'Union Rights in the Southwest'

# Sloane Strike To Enter Third Year

By Michael Silverburg  
Special to EL MALCRIADO

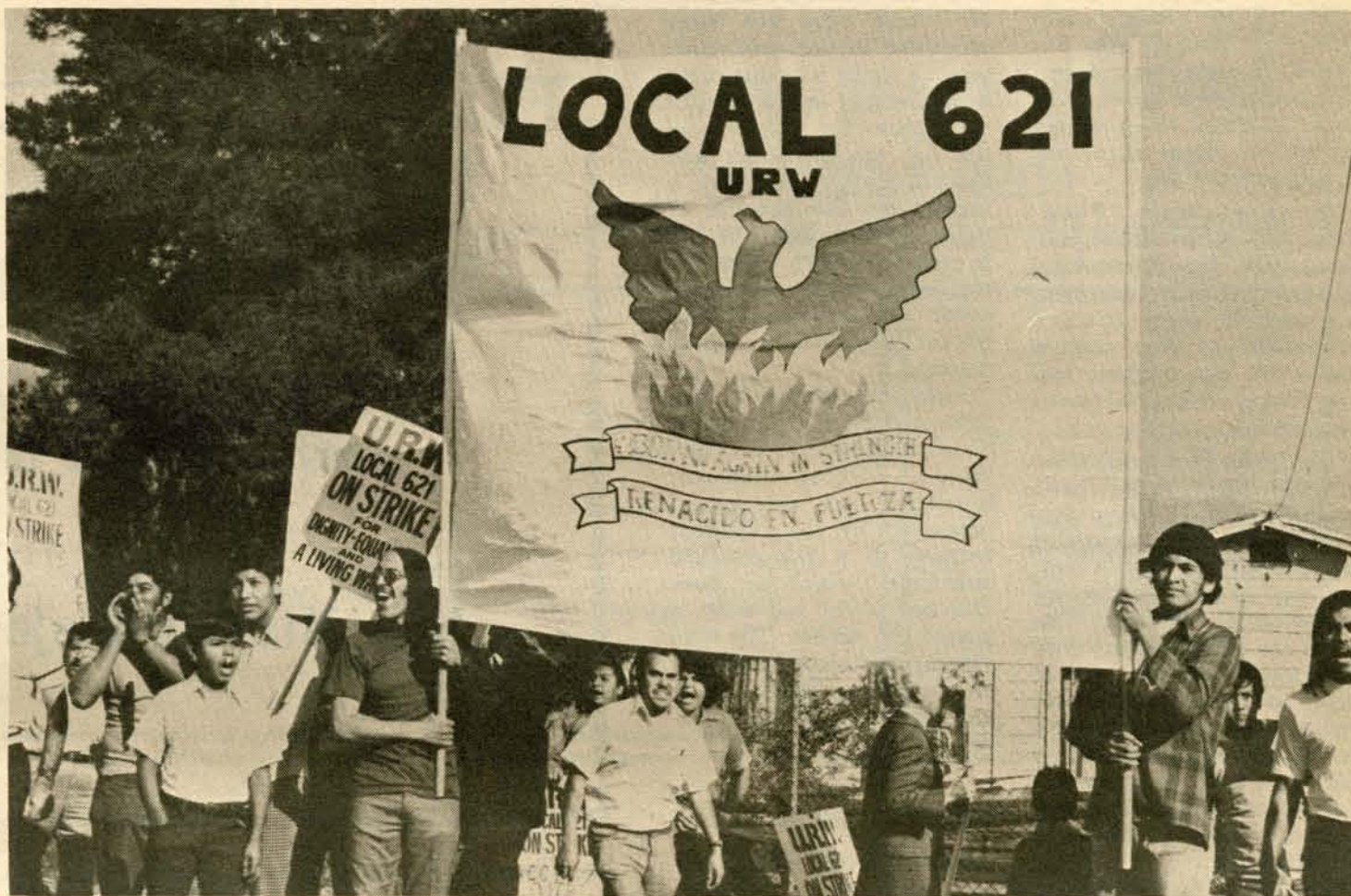
Los Angeles, Calif.—“We were forced to strike over a decent wage increase so that we could hold our heads above water. Since the beginning of the strike, the company's position has changed completely and it is now a question of survival—can we preserve our union and our self-respect?”

This statement, which appeared in a United Rubber Workers Local 621 letter to other unions, sums up the essence of the strike against R & G Sloane Manufacturing Co. which will begin its third year in March.

The struggle of the 300 predominantly Chicano workers against R & G Sloane, which produces plastic pipe and fittings and its parent company, the Susquehanna Corp., parallels the struggle of the United Farm Workers in many respects. Both groups are up against foes which are attempting to bust their unions. The farm workers face competition from a rival union while the URW faces a company which insists on an open shop. The rubber workers absolutely demand a closed shop. The URW #621 only came into existence after a bitter 10-year battle with the company (1960-1970).

Coupled with the demand for a closed shop, the union is asking for improved wages—starting workers get only \$2.10 per hour—and an end to the continuous work schedule which denied the workers overtime pay. Other demands include an end to discrimination against women and a seniority system for deciding promotions instead of the “merit” system which always favored the few white workers. Sloane has indicated it will not budge in its refusal of these demands, except possibly in the area of wages.

Another similarity between the two struggles has been the use of “illegals” from Mexico. The URW



VIVA LA HUELGA FOR UNITED RUBBER WORKERS—Los Angeles members of URW Local 621 raise their banner against R & G Sloane Co., where a predominantly Chicano 300-man work force is striking for the right to a union shop and voluntary overtime. The workers also are demanding an end to discrimination against women and a “merit system” that favors Anglo workers. The strikers are holding demonstrations and mounting a boycott campaign this month to enforce their demands.

feels that at least 200 persons are working for Sloane without papers. Of course, these scabs are being super-exploited as they are paid 80c less an hour than the regular workers. Sloane has tried to recruit labor from local schools without mentioning the strike.

A third similarity is that both unions are making use of the boycott. In this respect, the UFW has an advantage because the products involved are consumed by the general public.

As things stand at the present, the strike has caused Sloane to be a profit liability for the Susquehanna, and it appears that Susquehanna will allow Sloane to fold before settling. Hiram Rivera told this reporter, “Rumor has it that Susquehanna will shut down Sloane instead of settling but the union will force Sloane to pay the full price rather than return to the days prior to union organization.”

The union is planning a major effort in January, including demonstrations and a major attempt

to publicize the boycott. It is hoped that the situation can be moved off dead-center. A poster sums up the workers' case this way, “The members of Local 621 are on strike! Our demands are simple: voluntary overtime, a decent wage and a union.”

Sloane's answer has been scabs, arrests and injunctions. Like the farm workers and Farah strikes, our struggle is for union rights in the southwest. Support our AFL-CIO strike and boycott. Viva la Huelga!”

## Since 1947

# Workers' Buying Power Takes Steepest Nosedive

Washington, D.C. (ANS)—Real spendable earnings of the average American worker took their steepest year-to-year drop on record last November, as retail prices surged 12.1 percent above a year earlier, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The November decline of 1.7 percent in real wages—take-home pay adjusted for inflation—was the sharpest one-month drop since BLS began compiling the monthly figures in 1964. The latest decline reduced the average worker's buying power 6.2 percent below the year-earlier level.

The year-to-year drop in real spendable earnings was the sharpest on record, surpassing the previous record 5.4 percent decline in the 12-month period ended last April.

A married worker with three dependents was left with real spendable earnings of \$88.55, expressed in 1967 dollars, in November, BLS noted.

This was \$1.49 less than the month before, \$5.84 less than a year earlier and \$2.77 below the level for the year 1965. November was the 21st month in a row in which real spendable earnings were below their year-earlier level.

Meanwhile, inflation continued unabated in November. Retail prices rose another nine-tenths of 1 percent over the month, pushing the government's consumer price index to 154.3 percent of its 1967 average.

The year-to-year increase of 12.1 percent in the index was the largest since September 1947 when the CPI showed a 12.6 percent rise from the year before.

Soaring food prices, along with hefty increases for a wide variety of other consumer goods and services, led to the November CPI rise. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the nine-tenths of 1 percent increase was the same as the October rise.

Instead of declining as they usually do in November, prices of food purchased in

grocery stores increased by 1.1 percent over the month. Prices were higher for nearly everything but beef, fresh fruit and eggs. Sugar prices led the parade.

“Prices for sugar and products for which sugar is an important ingredient continued to rise rapidly and accounted for a substantial part of the November increase in food prices,” BLS said.

Pork and poultry prices increased more than they usually do in November while beef prices declined seasonally. Steep price rises also were recorded for fresh vegetables, cereals and bakery products, dairy products and most other types of food.

Higher prices for apparel accounted for about one-fourth of the nonfood commodities index. Rapid price increases were posted for housekeeping supplies, tobacco, floor coverings, appliances, houses and fuel oil.

Prices also rose for furniture, toilet goods, alcoholic beverages, reading materials and used cars, BLS noted. Gasoline prices, while declining for the fourth month in a row, were still 26 percent above year-earlier levels.

Over 60 percent of the increase in the services index was due to higher charges for all types of household services, including rent, BLS said.

## ALAN KISTLER: Director of Organizing, AFL-CIO National Office

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William Hightower  
Wilbert Williams  
Clinton Wood



# Anti-Contractor Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act Amendments, legislation introduced by Congressman William D. Ford (D-Mich.) to protect farmworkers from unscrupulous crew leaders and make it illegal to knowingly recruit an illegal alien, has finally become law.

Congressman Ford, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Agricultural Labor, called the enactment "a major step toward realization of 20th century rights for our migrant and seasonal agricultural workers."

Chairman Ford said, "One of the most significant provisions of the new law allows an aggrieved farmworker to file a suit against a crew leader for violation of the Act. The court can appoint an attorney and award damages up to \$500 or other appropriate remedies including injunctive relief. Previously a worker had to depend upon the understaffed Department of Labor to prosecute violations."

Another important provision of the Act provides that a farm labor contractor, or a crew leader, as they are commonly called, who knowingly recruits an illegal alien could be subject to a criminal penalty of up to \$10,000 fine or three years in prison if he is operating without a certificate of registration.

The legislation also extends coverage of the law to crew leaders who only operate within one state. Previously it applied only to crew leaders who transported migrants across state lines.

Other key provisions make the grower or farmer responsible for determining that any crew leader with whom he deals is duly registered with the Labor

Department and require that potential workers be given a written accounting of the living and working conditions for which they are being recruited, including whether or not a strike is taking place in the area of employment.

Penalties for violations of the Act are increased, and discrimination against a worker for the exercise of rights secured under the Act is prohibited with courts being granted the power to order reinstatement of a worker with back pay or damages.

Identical legislation was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisc.). Almost identical legislation had been vetoed previously by the President because of a non-germane amendment which had been attached to the bill when it passed the Senate. The final version was signed into law on Saturday, December 7, and officially announced today at noon.

## Filipinos Denounce Government Neglect

Stockton, Calif.—The Filipino Bayanihan, Inc. of Stockton recently charged that Filipino community needs are not getting fair consideration from three service organizations that are due to receive \$4 million in federal grants.

Andy Imutan, a former officer of United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO and now president of the Bayanihan, said the three organizations are Proteus of Visalia, Calif.; Sacramento Concilio, Inc.; and the Greater California Educational Project.

The Bayanihan reportedly is seeking agreement from these groups to provide more services to Filipino farm workers. The possibility of a suit to block the \$4 million in grants was reported.

American Federation of  
State, County and  
Municipal Employees  
General Hospital Employees  
Local 399  
Toni, Cheeks, Secretary

United Steel Workers of  
America  
Local 2175  
David Ross, President  
Bloomington, Minnesota

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## United Stanford Employees,

### Service Employees

### International Union

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Palo Alto, Calif.



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San Jose, Calif.



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Ashtabula, Ohio**

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Recording Secretary  
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**Orlando J. Balotta  
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**Graphic Arts International Union  
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**United Steel Workers of America  
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**A. E. Smith  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**United Brotherhood of Carpenters  
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**Workmen's Circle**

**Laya Marron, President  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**Communication Workers  
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Local 4305**

**Burne Hill, Treasurer  
Ronald Smallwood, President  
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**International Ladies Garment  
Workers Union  
Ohio-Kentucky Region**

**Sam Janis, Regional Director  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**Communications Workers  
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Local 4350**

**James E. Irvine, President  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**Jewish Labor Committee**

**Max R. Wohl  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,**

**Local 1466,**

**Charles L. Pancake, President**

**Columbus, Ohio**



**Says ACLU's Lavery;**

## Goons Go Underground In Suit Against Teamsters

Keene, Calif.—Southern California ACLU attorney Dan Lavery reported January 10 that "the Teamster goons have gone underground" to avoid questioning in a \$25 million suit against the IBT and Coachella growers.

A federal court judge in Los Angeles ordered the preliminary questioning be finished by Jan. 20 in a case in which the American Civil Liberties Union seeks damages for farm workers beaten by Teamster goons in the Coachella Valley during the 1973 farm labor strife there.

Lavery said federal marshals succeeded in serving interrogatories on the Coachella growers and William Grami of the Teamsters, but couldn't find the goons named in the suit. The suit was filed Nov. 12 in defiance of an Indio Superior Court ruling that held the UFW could not file any more suits against the Teamsters. The Indio ruling was later reversed.

Lavery expects a ruling in another important ACLU case, this one being heard by federal court in Fresno, on whether the Kern County

Sheriff and District Attorney have to answer Lavery's 200-page request for admissions.

Lavery said attorneys for Sheriff Charles Dodge and DA Albert Leddy had promised to answer the request by Dec. 22, then turned around and complained to the court it would take 1,000 hours to answer the request.

Lavery reported another dismissal motion, this one by the Teamsters and Kern County, defendants in a \$25 million ACLU suit, will be heard by the federal court in Fresno on Feb. 3. This suit seeks damages for the beatings of Tomas Barrios and other farm workers on July 31, 1973 in Kern County by Teamster goons while sheriff's deputies did nothing to stop it. Lamont grower Eugene Nalbanion also is a defendant in the suit.

"They lied to me," said Lavery, explaining his request for admissions sought factual confirmations from Dodge and Leddy as to specific violent incidents they witnessed during the 1973 Kern County farm labor strife. Lavery had asked the Kern officials to confirm the uses of force by police, including the use of mace and helicopters, which were observed at the time.

The suit against Dodge, Leddy and 35 deputy sheriffs, which seeks up to \$500 million in damages, has been in the hands of Federal District Court Judge M.D. Crocker since September, when he took under submission a defense motion of dismissal. He has yet to rule on the motion.

## Students Hit By New Rule On Food Stamps

Washington, D.C.—The Agriculture Department has announced that a new food stamp regulation effective Jan. 10 will exclude college students from families that list the youths as tax dependents.

Officials said "many thousands" of students could be affected by the regulation, which bars food stamps for youths who get more than half their support from households which allegedly are too well-off to qualify for food stamps.

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Branch 100-43608

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Toledo, Ohio

Carpenters Local 1108

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Cleveland, Ohio

Ladue Supporters

St. Louis, Missouri

UPIU Local 1928,

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Communications Workers



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St. Louis, Missouri

Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers

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*United Auto Workers, Local 541*

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*Livingston, New Jersey*

*Hudson County District Council  
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*Jersey City, New Jersey*

**Scranton Central**

**Labor Council**

**George Pelletieri**

**Trenton, New Jersey**

**United Steel Workers**

**of America**

**Local 13945**

**C. Harris, President**

**Gloucester City, New Jersey**

# **INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

**Local 461**

**Cornelius McGinley**

**Elizabeth, New Jersey**



# UFW Sues USDA On Food Stamp Plan

New York City, N.Y.—United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, the National Welfare Rights Organization and several other national people's lobbies filed a federal suit January 21 against the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to cutback its food stamp program for the needy.

The USDA, under pressure from President Ford and HEW Secretary Casper Weinberger to cut its budget, announced final plans Jan. 17 to raise the prices charged to food stamp recipients, effective March 1, 1975. The move would cut about 1.5 million persons out of the food stamp program and save the government an estimated \$645 million.

The UFW joined a suit sponsored by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) of New York. The suit seeks a federal injunction to halt the proposed food stamp price increase.

Steve Burton, UFW attorney and a member of the FRAC board of directors, said "this sudden decision is arbitrary and capricious. It does not take into consideration the purposes of the Food Stamp Act—to provide a nutritionally adequate diet for low-income households. This could force many persons out of the program entirely, as is usual with government budget-cutting which hits poor people hardest."

FRAC staff member Jeti Kirsch said, "this amounts to a new tax on the poor; those least able to pay are being asked to bear the heaviest burden of inflation."

Burton said the UFW joined the suit against USDA on behalf of farm workers and other poor people. He criticized the USDA plan to raise the price of food stamps from 23% of a families net income to 30%. While the Food Stamp Act of 1964 does set a 30% maximum charge, Burton said the maximum has hardly ever been used. Only 1% of food stamp recipients now pay 30%, and the Food Stamp Act requires that the charge to recipients be "reasonable." The FRAC suit claims 30% in this era is not reasonable.

When the USDA plan was announced last month, 2,500 individuals reportedly sent protests to the department. Anti-poverty groups, labor unions, consumer organizations and finally Congressmen began attacking the plan. Sen. Hubert Humphrey said the increase "makes the entire food stamp program a cruel hoax."

The USDA plan would effectively cut out recipients who have more than \$150 a month net income. Hardest hit would be the elderly. For example, an elderly widow with cash income of \$100 a month now pays \$18 for \$46

worth of stamps; in March she would have to pay \$30 for the same \$46 in stamps.

Critics of the food stamp price increase got further ammunition from two reports in January: The USDA estimated retail food prices would increase 15% at an annual rate during the first half of 1975; and FRAC released a study that showed less than half of the 34-39 million persons eligible for food stamps are actually getting them. There were 14.8 million recipients last October, latest month for which figures are available.

FRAC attorneys said they will use the study to prove that most states are not fulfilling the Food Stamp Act's provision for "outreach" programs to attract potential food stamp recipients.

FRAC attorneys won a ruling from U.S. District Judge Miles Lord in Minneapolis last October that said virtually every state's outreach program is inadequate under the law.

The new FRAC study of food stamp eligibility was prepared during the past eight months by Dr. Maurice MacDonald of the Institute for Research of Poverty at the University of Wisconsin and Dr. Gary Bickel of the Bureau of Social Research in Washington, D.C.

The FRAC study said that because the Food Stamp Act permits deductions from gross income for taxes, medical expenses and high shelter costs, many families with gross incomes as high as \$9,000 would have small enough net incomes to be eligible for food stamps.

Granite City United Farm  
Workers Support Committee  
Granite City, Illinois

Carpenters District Council of  
Madison County and Vicinity  
John A. Ubaudi  
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**United Steel Workers of America,  
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**Operating Engineers,**

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**James Butler, Business Manager**

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**Central Labor Council**

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**San Jose, Calif.**

**Communications Workers  
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**Margo Gonzales,**

**Community Services Chairperson**

**San Jose, Calif.**

**Retail Store Employees Union of  
Santa Clara County and Menlo  
Park**

**Local 428**

**James McLoughlin, President**

**San Jose, Calif.**

**¡VIVA LA HUELGA!**



**Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers,**

**Local 4-367,**

**Ed R. Watson, President,**

**R.L. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer,**

**Pasadena, Texas**

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## Union Sues ELMCO For False Labeling

Delano, Calif.—UFW attorneys have defeated attempts by Elmco Vineyards, Inc. to avoid questioning in a \$14 million false labeling suit the union brought against seven San Joaquin Valley growers.

Preliminary injunctions already have been issued in the suit to bar the growers from further use of the containers that bear the union's black Aztec eagle label. Named in the injunctions are Tulare County growers Elmco Vineyards, Poplar Grape Growers, St. Agnes Vineyards and Merzoian Bros. Farm Management Co.; and Kern County growers Pandol Bros., Inc., Tex-Cal, Inc., and John Dulcich and Sons.

UFW attorney Debbie Vollmer reported that Elmco Vineyards filed motions for a protective order against answering her 82 pages of questions, and to separate the question of malice from the rest of the case.

Elmco is one of the companies that refused to renew its contracts with the UFW in the summer of 1973, and attorney Vollmer successfully argued before the court that the issues were inextricably intertwined. She also said that separating the issue of malice would work a burden on the court by requiring a double trial.

Elmco argued that to answer Vollmer's interrogatories on its finances, business practices, labeling and marketing procedures would be "burdensome and oppressive." Vollmer, however, successfully argued that the questions as a whole were relevant and Elmco should be required to answer the set of queries, raising objections to particular questions on an individual basis.

The union seeks \$14 million in actual and punitive damages from the growers for illegally using the union's label. UFW attorneys won the injunction part of the suit last year by presenting photographs and affidavits from across the country showing the growers used the boxes with union labels.

### In Stockton

## UFW Change of Venue Motion Denied

Stockton, Calif.—Superior Court Judge William Biddeck refused January 9 to move out of Stockton a trial of UFW members despite evidence presented by the union that the defendants could not get a fair trial in San Joaquin County.

Union attorneys had presented to the court evidence of community-wide prejudice against the union during last fall's tomato strike.

A random sample attitude survey conducted by the union showed people in an urban county such as Alameda had considerably less prejudice against striking farm workers than in a rural county like San Joaquin.

The union also presented a newspaper survey that showed San Joaquin Valley news accounts focused on violent incidents in the tomato strike and did not cover the issues involving better working conditions sought by the strikers.

The case involves charges of assaults on police officers that were filed against five union members during the strike. The judge had conceded it might be hard for them to get a fair trial in Stockton but maintained that as a matter of practicality he couldn't grant every change of venue motion which claimed prejudice against defendants.

## International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,

Local 1917

West Orange, New Jersey

Middlesex County  
Central  
Labor Council

Carl DeFazio  
President

Toms River, New Jersey

International Molders and  
Allied Workers Union,  
AFL-CIO, CLC,  
Local 40

Claude C. Wicks,  
Corresponding Treasurer  
Newark, New Jersey

Mercer County  
AFL-CIO, CLC

Thomas Dunn, President

Trenton, New Jersey

## United Steel Workers of America



Local 7357,

John Kolb,

Pennsauken, New Jersey

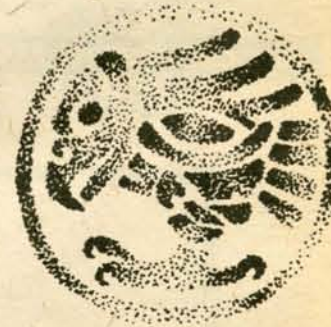


## Plumbers and Steamfitters,


Local 49,

Bruno Fierro, Business Manager

Paterson, New Jersey





Painters District Council 22  Alex Harris, Secretary-Treasurer  Hazel Park, Michigan	United Farm Workers Support Committee  Alex Lopez UFW Organizer  Pontiac, Michigan	International Association of Machinists, Local 82  Donald Lucas, Recording Secretary  Detroit, Michigan	United Steel Workers of America Local 6828  Charles G. Gretz, Jr., President  Louisville, Kentucky
Detroit Interfaith Committee to Aid Farm Workers  Msgr. Clement H. Kern Detroit, Michigan	International Molders and Allied Workers Union Local 186  Nick Johnson, President  Muskegon, Michigan	American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 25  William P. Anderson President  Eloise, Michigan	United Steel Workers of America Local 7372  Robert Martin, President  Owensboro, Kentucky
<div> <div>American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees</div> <div>Local 2584,</div> <div>Bernard Belaus, President</div> <div>Pennsylvania</div> </div>		International Molders and Allied Workers Union Local 61  Robert M. Edkin, Corresponding Representative  Erie, Pennsylvania	United Steel Workers of America Local 1219  Charles A. Maniccia President  Bradock, Pennsylvania
<div> <div>United Steel Workers of America</div> <div>Local Union 8183</div> <div>  </div> <div>Bert Irons, President</div> <div>Monaca, Pennsylvania</div> </div>		<div> <div>International Molders and Allied Workers Union</div> <div>Local 376</div> <div>William L. Meyers</div> <div>Corresponding- Represenative</div> <div>Lancaster, Pennsylvania</div> </div>	<div> <div>International Brotherhood of Pottery and Allied Workers</div> <div>Local 173, Ida Bowlly</div> <div>Upper Black Eddy, Pennsylvania</div> </div>



*United Steel Workers of America  
Local 3196*

*James G. McElhaney*

*Corapolis, Pennsylvania*

*Cigarmakers Local 295,  
AFL-CIO*

*Mrs. Helen G. Milberger,  
Secretary-Treasurer*

*Pennsylvania*

*United Steel Workers of  
America, Local 3199*

*Otto F. Seip, President*

*Erie, Pennsylvania*

*United Steel Workers of  
America, Local 1905*

*James D. Ball*

*Geneva, Pennsylvania*

*Insurance Workers International  
Union, Local 13, AFL-CIO*

*Pat McGrogan*

*Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

*Pittsburgh Airman  
Lodge 1044*

*Robert E. Beatty*

*Corapolis, Pennsylvania*

**Retail Clerks Union,**

**Local 1361, RCIA-AFL-CIO**

**John C. Brennan, President**

**Allentown, Pennsylvania**

**The Sisters at**

**St. Scholastica Convent**



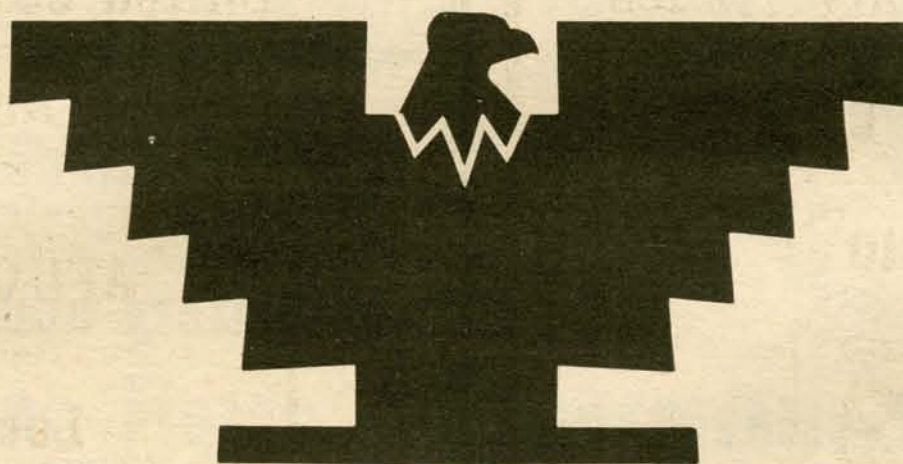
**Fort Smith,**

**Arkansas**

**LABORERS Local 270**

**Greg Aguilar**

**President**



**San Jose, Calif.**





United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum  
and Plastic Workers of America  
Local 200

H. Gene Hunsaker

St. Mary's, Ohio

United Paperworkers,  
Local 321

John Christian, President

Lockland, Ohio

International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers,  
Local 964

Robert Babcock, President

Coshocton, Ohio

Local 1394

George Trenner

S. Zanesville, Ohio

United Glass and Ceramic Workers  
of North America,  
Local 20

Robert McMillan

Fredericktown, Ohio

United Paperworkers  
International Union,  
Local 1931

Centerville, Ohio

Mad River Valley Federated  
Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Robert Benston, President

Springfield, Ohio

Women's Fellowship  
Tallmadge Congregational Church

Mary Benton

Tallmadge, Ohio

United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum  
and Plastic Workers of America  
AFL-CIO-CLC

Peter Bommarito,  
International President

Kenneth Oldham,  
International Vice President

Ike Gold, International  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Goldham, Ohio

International Union of

Electricians, Local 717

Warren, Ohio

United Steel Workers  
of America,  
Local 4377

Lloyd Udder, President

Jerry Bowman,  
Financial Secretary  
Coshocton, Ohio

Toledo Area AFL-CIO  
Council

Harry P. Morell, President

Toledo, Ohio

## Communications Workers of America, Local 4310

Marie Higgengottam, President

Belva Kirk, Treasurer



Columbus, Ohio

## International Association of Machinists,

Simon Kenton Lodge,

Local 2117

F. Buroker

Mount Victory, Ohio

## Coshocton County Trades and Labor Council,

AFL-CIO



James E. Haynes, President

Ohio

## United Steel Workers of America

AFL-CIO-CLC

Local 185

Brookpark, Ohio





United Auto Workers,  
Local 1211,  
Lima, Ohio



IWUA, Local 199,

Milton Young,

Piqua, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs.  
Robert Barker,  
1105 Ridgeway,

Dayton, Ohio 45419

Allied Industrial Workers  
of America,  
AFL-CIO  
Local 481

Marjorie M. Wheeler,  
Financial Secretary

Cleveland, Ohio

Millwrights and Machinery  
Erectors,  
Local 1454

C. W. Fowee, Jr., President

Cincinnati, Ohio

St. Louis Teacher Union  
Local 420

Demosthenes DuBose, President

St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis Joint Board,  
TWUA, AFL-CIO

Charles Sallee, Manager

St. Louis, Missouri

International Chemical  
'Workers Union

J. A. Thomas, Vice President

St. Louis, Missouri

Hope United  
Presbyterian Church

Creve Coeur, Missouri

Boilermakers Union,  
Local 27

David E. Casson

St. Louis, Missouri

American Flint Glass Workers,  
Local 1017

Hubert G. Taulbu

Logan, Ohio

Laborers International Union  
of North America,  
Local 530

Zanesville, Ohio

International Brotherhood  
Of Electrical Workers,  
Local 1394

George Trenner

S. Zanesville, Ohio

International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers,  
Local 2020

Reynoldsburg, Ohio

United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum  
and Plastic Workers of America  
Local 747

Janie R. Brean

Barberton, Ohio

United Steel Workers of America  
Local 4612,



Bill McConnel

Gnadenhutten, Ohio

Alton-Wood River Area

Federation of Labor,

AFL-CIO,

Ohio



# SI SE PUEDE

## UFW Legal Offensive:

### Cohen Tells Progress of Three Major Suits

Keene, Calif.—Three major suits against Teamsters and growers are moving ahead, according to the UFW's chief legal counsel, Jerome Cohen.

Cohen said the California Supreme Court is due to take up in late January a writ of prohibition sought by the union in a suit against Watsonville, Calif. area apple

growers. The growers signed contracts last July with the Teamsters without their workers' knowledge.

In another major case, Cohen said a conference is due this month on oral arguments for the Bradley vs. Church suit, a two-year-old UFW challenge to contracts

signed by Teamsters and Salinas lettuce growers.

The suit is based on the California Labor Code section 923 which guarantees workers the right to organize. Cohen said the workers were denied their rights by a company union, the Teamsters, which signed the contracts without consulting the workers. The case is now before the First District Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

A related case in federal court, a \$224 million anti-trust suit against the Salinas lettuce growers, may produce the best results though final action is more than a year away. Cohen said the union recently won broad powers of discovery in the case from Federal Judge Stanley Wiegel. This means union attorneys will get access to Teamster and grower records to find evidence of alleged company-union collusion.

Cohen said the suit alleges that the lettuce growers conspired among themselves and then went to the Teamsters to sign contracts, resulting in artificially regulating the workers' wages.

The class action suit, filed on behalf of 50,000 lettuce cutters in the Salinas area, seeks \$224 million in wages lost through company-union collusion. It also asks that the "sham contracts" be set aside by the court.

### Against Growers: \$6 Million

Bakersfield, Calif.—The UFW's Martin Luther King Farm Worker Fund named 71 southern San Joaquin Valley growers and packers in a \$6 million breach of contract suit Jan. 7 in Kern County Superior Court.

Attorney Steve Burton said the fund, which finances the union's educational development programs, was to receive two cents per box of picked fruit and five cents per man hour worked under UFW contracts signed with the growers and packers in 1970.

Burton said the employers paid into the fund, as they would for a pension fund, for the first two years of the contract. But they stopped making the payments in the contract's last year.

The breach of contract suit is similar to a number of suits filed by the Robert F.

Kennedy Medical Plan, the union's medical services fund. Payments to this fund were also cut off in the third year of the contract, but some growers named in the RFK suits have settled for what they owed.

The Martin Luther King suit seeks \$100,000 from each of the growers and packers, plus interest. Among the employers named in the suit are Roberts Farms, Inc.; Nick Bozanich; Tenneco; Dan Tudor; Mid-State Horticulture Co.; John Pagliarulo and Sons; D. Steele and Sons; Bruno Dispoto; Jack Zaninovich; Frank A. Lucich; Jack and Marion Radovich; Louis Caric and Sons; V. B. Zaninovich; Steve Pavich; Jasmine Vineyards and A & N Zaninovich.

American Postal Workers  
of America, Local 73

Joe Flores, President

San Jose, California

West Valley Federation  
of Teachers

Lynne M. Olivieri,  
Secretary

Gordon G. Martin  
Los Gatos, California

Service Employees  
International Union,  
AFL-CIO, Local 715

Robert Muscat, President

San Jose, California

Communications Workers  
of America Local 9423

Kendall A. Montes,  
President

San Jose, California

Foothill College  
Federation of Teachers

Tom Maddox, President

Foothill, California

Carpenters Local 1280

Leigh Keeline, Financial  
Secretary-Treasurer

San Jose, California

Amalgamated Transit Union,  
Division 192

Edward A. Cordeiro, President

Lloyd L. Hadden, Financial  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Oakland, California

Tamalpais Federation  
of Teachers

Tamalpais, California

American Federation of State,  
County, and Municipal Employees  
Local 2167

Barbara Boxer  
Mill Valley, California

Marin County Labor Council

Charles B. Weers,  
Secretary-Treasurer

San Rafael, California

United Steel Workers of America  
Local 7325

Dave Rearden

Owensboro, Kentucky

United Steel Workers of America  
Local 2818

Albert Coleman, President

Henderson, Kentucky

International Union of  
Electricians, Local 474

Cranford, New Jersey

United Steel Workers of  
America, Local 2701

Ed B. Anderson

Orem, Utah

International Molders and Allied  
Workers Union, Local 315

Pat Napohitano,  
Corresponding Representative

Mohawk, New Jersey

Communications Workers  
of America, Local 1024

Marilyn A. Lanke, Treasurer

Rutherford, New Jersey

Interfaith Committee to Support  
the Farm Workers

Donald Clark, Convener

East Orange, New Jersey

American Federation  
of State, County  
and Municipal Employees

Oakland County  
Road Employees  
Local 92

Donald H. Guye, President



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**INTERNATIONAL  
LONGSHOREMEN AND  
WAREHOUSEMEN'S  
UNION  
LOCALS 6, 10, 34  
DON WATSON  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.**

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# COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA LOCAL 9102



FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY—Clinching their support of United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO with a solidarity handshake, Dale Van Pelt of the Seattle Boycott staff (left) and Mike Welch of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 9102 hold a cashier's check for \$1,113 which CWA members contributed in a Washington state campaign to boost the UFW's general strike fund. (EL MALCRIADO photo by Seattle Boycott.)

## MIKE WELCH, PRESIDENT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



# Anniversary of 1912 Lawrence Textile Strike Noted

New York City (LNS)—“Short Pay!” yelled Polish women mill workers on January 11, 1912, as they spontaneously walked out of the American Woolen Company’s Lawrence, Massachusetts mill, protesting horrendous working conditions and a 32c cut in their weekly pay.

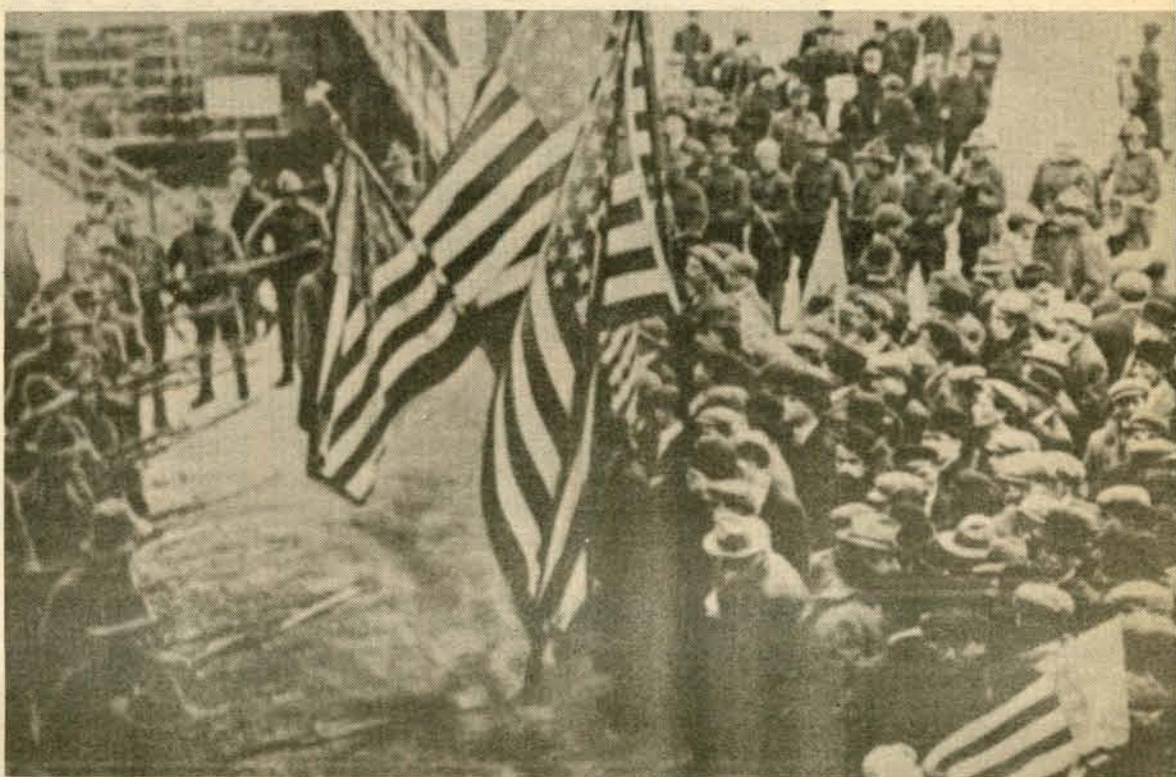
The Lawrence textile strike of 1912 had begun. The spirit of the angry women spread to other mills as well, with some strikers shutting off power, others wrecking machinery or mill gates, throwing ice at the windows of other mills, and urging others to stop work.

Soon, thousands of unskilled workers—predominantly women and children of more than 25 different nationalities—struck the Lawrence mills, owned by the American Woolen Company, a 50-year old mill trust.

Organizers Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and “Big Bill” Haywood were instrumental in the strike, which was coordinated by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

“There is not a foreigner here except the capitalist and he will not be a foreigner long, for we will make a worker of him,” said Haywood at the height of strike activity. “Do not let them divide you by sex, color, creed, or nationality; for as you stand you are invincible.”

The strike was won on March 12.



NOT TOO HARD TO BELIEVE THESE DAYS—Textile workers vs. National Guardsmen in Lawrence, Massachusetts, January 11, 1912.

**Bakery and Confectionery Workers,**

**Local 300**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**Bakery and Confectionery Workers,**

**Local 1-A**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**United Steel Workers of America,**

**Local 837**

**Irving Carter, President**

**Carteret, New Jersey**

**Bakery and Confectionery Workers**

**International Union of America**

**Gregory Oskoion**

**Washington, D.C.**

**International Union of  
Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers**

**Paul Jennings, President**

**David Fitzmaurice, Secretary-Treasurer**

**Washington, D.C.**



Michigan State  
AFL-CIO  
Lansing, Michigan

# BOYCOTT GRAPES



Church  
of the Resurrection  
  
Solon, Ohio

United Glass  
and Ceramic Workers  
of North America  
Local 20

Lewis R. Hoar, President

Robert L. McMillan  
Financial Secretary

Mt. Vernon, Ohio

Tuscarawas County  
AFL-CIO Council

William Haney  
President

Bob Dillon  
Recording Secretary

New Philadelphia, Ohio

Plumbers and Steamfitters  
Local 42

Robert Cole  
Business Manager

Norwalk, Ohio

Carpenters Union  
Local 171

Joseph Napolitan  
President

Youngstown, Ohio

International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers  
Local 1654

Kenneth L. Jones  
President

Ottawa, Ohio

United Steel Workers  
of America  
Local 1330

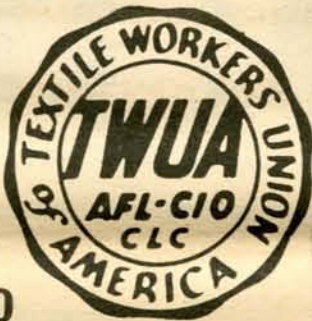
Stephen Leskoryansky  
President

Youngstown, Ohio

## Textile Workers of America

Local 199

Piqua, Ohio



United Paperworkers  
International Union  
Local 17855

Richard Fincher,  
Financial Secretary

Dover, Ohio

International Chemical  
Workers Union  
Local 20

Byron Ball,  
Recording Secretary

Dover, Ohio

International Association of  
Machinists and Aerospace Workers,  
Local 1228

Tony M. Cuelbar,  
Financial Secretary

Euclid, Ohio

University City  
Supporters

St. Louis, Missouri

Customers at National Food  
in Richmond Heights

St. Louis, Missouri

International Molders  
and Allied Workers  
Local 230

David P. Hayes,  
Corresponding Representative

Davenport, Iowa

United Rubber, Cork,  
Linoleum and Plastic Workers  
of America, Local 601

Lower Columbiana County,  
AFL-CIO

Massillon, Ohio

Customers at  
Jennings Station Road  
National Store

St. Louis, Missouri

**International Brotherhood  
of Boilermakers  
and Blacksmiths  
District 105  
John Zalac  
International Representative  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**United Paper Workers  
International Union  
Local 112  
AFL-CIO-CLC  
Lester Wallace, President  
Jesse E. McLure  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Middletown, Ohio**



International Molders  
and Allied Workers Union  
Local 61  
  
Robert M. Edkin,  
Corresponding Representative

# SI SE PUEDE

Snokomish County  
Labor Council  
  
David Mascarenas, President  
  
Everett, Washington

<p>Brotherhood of Railway Clerks</p> <p>Toledo Lodge 1356</p> <p>Toledo, Ohio</p>	<p>Toledo Area AFL-CIO Council</p> <p>Harry P. Morell, President</p> <p>Toledo, Ohio</p>	<p>International Association of Machinists, Local 2158</p> <p>Charles R. Dougherty</p> <p>Mansfield, Ohio</p>	<p>American Postal Workers Union</p> <p>Marion, Ohio</p>
<p>United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Local 2077</p> <p>Jackson Pike</p> <p>Grove City, Ohio</p>	<p>United Paperworkers International Union, Local 1931</p> <p>Frank Johnson</p> <p>Centerville, Ohio</p>	<p>United Steel Workers of America, Local 5439</p> <p>Canton, Ohio</p>	<p>Toledo AFL-CIO</p> <p>Toledo, Ohio</p>

**Harris County AFL-CIO,**  
  
**R. J. Christi, President,**  
  
**Don Horn, Secretary-Treasurer**  
  
**Houston, Texas**

**International Brotherhood  
of Electrical Workers,**  
  
**Local 217,**  
  
**C. N. Maugham, Business Agent**  
  
**Ogden, Utah**

## The Texas Boycott, UFW/AFL-CIO

Karen Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson  
Arkansas Friends of UFW  
Austin Boycott Committee  
Yolanda Birdwell  
Rev. Jose Burgos  
Mauro F. Cantu, Jr.  
Helen Cassidy  
Hon. Leonel Castillo,  
Comptroller, City of Houston  
Billie Carr  
Clear Lake City Boycott Committee  
Martin and Lupe Cobian and Family  
Irving and Marguerite Cohen  
Edmund Cogburn  
Robert Connor  
Corpus Christi Boycott Committee  
Gus and Inez Crawford  
Judy Elders  
Fr. Worth Boycott Committee  
Pat Gandy  
Remegio "Sparks" Garcia  
Rev. Chavelo Gomez  
Peggy Hall

W.C. Harrison  
George and Joyce Hernandez and Family  
Kathryn Hooker  
Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick,  
Houston Metropolitan Ministries  
Barbara Lopez  
Ann Lower  
Louisiana Friends of UFW

The Texas Boycott  
UFW-AFL-CIO  
Houston, Texas

Bill Chandler, Director  
Jose Bustamante  
David Papen  
Jose Martinez  
Sylvia Montemayor

Dick Manne  
Mrs. Pollard Marsters  
Ann McClung  
John McKnight  
Johnnie Nichols  
Frumencio Reyes, Jr.,  
Texas Consumers Assn.  
Robert Rivera  
Judge Armando V. Rodriguez  
Paul and Kathy Rowe  
Robert A. Rowland, III  
Donna Rybiski  
San Antonio Boycott Committee  
St. Chatherine Swilley  
Leo Tanguma  
Ernesto Valdez,  
Mexican-American Bar Association  
Judge Richard Vara

Robert E. Walls  
Sr. Margaret Rose Warburton  
Ann Wharton  
W.L. Willoby  
Jack Woods

## Houston, Texas



# HOUSTON- GALVESTON DIOCESE

Bishop Morkovsky  
Houston, Texas



International Molders  
and Allied Workers  
Local 287

Harold R. Lehr,  
Treasurer  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Office and Professional  
Employees International  
Union, Local 32

Nicholas Juliano,  
Business Manager  
Newark, New Jersey

United Steel Workers  
of America, Local 3587

Jack Smith,  
President  
Hamilton, Ohio

North Jersey  
Printing Pressmen, Assistants,  
and Offset Workers Union  
Local 31

Irvington, New Jersey

# SE PUEDE

Miami Valley  
Carpenters  
District Council  
Dayton, Ohio

Ohio Valley  
Carpenters  
Kenneth A. Busch  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**District 3, AFL-CIO**  
**William Bywater, President**  
**Archer Cole,**  
**Assistant to the President**  
**East Rutherford, New Jersey**

**Plumbers and  
Steamfitters,  
Local Union 181**  
**James C. Siciliano,**  
**Treasurer**  
**Long Branch,**  
**New Jersey**

**United Auto Workers,  
Local 595**

**Earl Stutzman, President**

**Linden, New Jersey**

**United Auto Workers,  
Region 9**  
**Martin Gerber, Director**  
**Cranford, New Jersey**

**United Steel Workers  
of America,  
Local 12273**  
**Jack R. Forrest,**  
**President**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

**United Steel Workers  
of America,  
Local 3138**  
**Ethan A. Bruce,**  
**President**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio**

**United Steel Workers  
of America,  
Local 4393**  
**Roedell Campbell,**  
**Fred Wilhelm**  
**New Jersey**



United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum  
and Plastic Workers of America

Local 601

Lower Columbiana County  
AFL-CIO

Massillon, Ohio

International Association of  
Machinists and Aerospace  
Workers, Local 1228

Tony M. Cuelbar,  
Financial Secretary

Euclid, Ohio

Utility Workers Union of  
America, Local 350

Jerry Fischer, President

Fremont Conaway, Secretary

Victor Exner, Treasurer

Shadyside, Ohio

International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers, Local 673

Howard D. George,  
Business Manager

Mentor, Ohio

**United Steel Workers of America,**

**Great Lakes Seamen,**

**Local 5000,**

**Stephen Nolasowski, Administrator**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

National Association of Letter

Carriers, Branch 100-43608

Walter S. Kocinski

Toledo, Ohio

Sandusky, Ohio Labor  
Council, AFL-CIO

J. P. Jackman, Secretary-Treasurer

Sandusky, Ohio

Laborer's Local 500

S. L. Jones, President

Toledo, Ohio

United Glass Workers, Local 9

Clyde Alexander, President

Rossford, Ohio

**United Steel Workers of America,**

**Local 6856,**

**Waterford, Ohio**

**United Auto Workers,**

**Bill Casstevens and Staff,**

**Region 2**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

**United Steel Workers of America,**



**Local 5684,**



**Cincinnati, Ohio**



# PLIGHT OF U.S. FARMWORKER TOLD

(Editor's Note: The following article about the UFW's appeal for support from Europeans was translated from "Der Spiegel," the West German weekly news magazine. It was translated by Arnold Meyer and sent to La Paz by his son, Tom Meyer, formerly a member of the UFW's legal office in Stockton.)

\* \* \*

When the police arrived at the scene of the accident, it was crowded with people. A truck belonging to the powerful conglomerate, Gulf & Western, had crashed at sunrise carrying 130 farm workers instead of the 80 permitted by law. One of the sugar cane cutters died. Eighty-six were injured.

Like most of the sugar cane plantation owners in Florida, Gulf & Western imported cheap farm hands from the poverty-ridden island of Jamaica. Anyone not fulfilling his quota or complaining about conditions or food is sent back to Jamaica at once—and has to pay for his own ticket. The "Miami News" quoted one Florida planter:

"Formerly we owned our own slaves; now we rent them."

In the State of California, farm worker Ismael Gonzales testified in court: "Foremen and strawbosses rushed us continuously. One of them cussed and cursed me. If I had talked back, I would have been fired. Sometimes we had to work right behind a truck which dispensed poisonous insecticide chemicals."

Ismael Gonzales is only one of about three million American farm workers who live without rights and in poverty in the richest country on earth. Most of them are "Chicanos," U.S. citizens of Mexican descent, and Mexicans who cross the border illegally by the thousands yearly (for substandard wages) to harvest the crops of the huge vegetable fields and fruit orchards in the southwest U.S. and Florida.

These "campesinos" (Spanish for farm workers) move with the harvest from south to north—up to 4,000 kilometers (2,400 miles) in one season. They live in crowded campsites, sometimes without adequate sanitary facilities. The camps are frequently enclosed by barbed wire and guarded by the private police of the plantation owners. One wealthy landowner from Bakersfield sneered about the living and working conditions of the farm workers. "You know what the breakfast of a Chicano is? A cigarette and a piss."

The income of two-thirds of all farm workers, according to a 1971 study by the University of Denver, is

below the poverty limit of \$2,885 a year for a farm worker's family of four as recognized by the federal government. In order to survive, all the children have to work. Every fourth person employed in agriculture is a child below 16 years of age.

The average lifespan of an agricultural laborer is 49 years, as compared with the U.S. average of 71.2 years. The mortality rate of children is about 125% higher than the average in the USA and the same goes for the mortality rate of mothers. The numbers of farm workers suffering from tuberculosis and other serious infectious illnesses exceeds the rest of the population by two and a half times. And, according to a 1969 investigation by the California Department of Health, 150 out of 1,000 campesinos showed symptoms of poisoning by chemicals used in crop spraying.

One-hundred-nine years after the official abolition of slavery in America and almost 40 years after the proclamation of labor regulation laws by the Congress in Washington (National Labor Relations Act), American farm workers are still excluded from laws regulating the relationship between the employer and employees. They are still refused the right of collective bargaining; they have no protection against dismissal, no unemployment benefits, no health plan, no sickness compensation, no paid holidays, no vacations, and no overtime pay. Nor do they have the right to welfare support unless they have been employed for a prolonged time by the same employer—something nearly impossible for a seasonal crop worker.

Only one man gave the campesinos hope for future justice: Cesar Chavez, 47, who in the sixties built a union which directed the attention of the whole nation towards the situation of the farm workers—the United Farm Workers (UFW).

Chavez himself is a Chicano. At the age of ten he started to pick grapes and vegetables. His UFW is often considered in the USA as the second civil rights movement—the one of the Mexican minority. "La Causa," the farm workers movement, achieved its first victory as late as 1970, after five years of militant struggle, the longest in American history.

And it was won by unconventional methods; with the help of other unions, of the church, and of many voluntary helpers. Finally the union succeeded in organizing a consumer boycott. The sale of grapes at times decreased to 30% of former years.

The Washington government came to the help of the agricultural business interests. When supermarket chains, restaurants, and airlines, under the pressure of public



FIRM BELIEF—Supporter, Cesar, and Bill Soltero, Arizona labor leader join in unity song. (Photo by Chris Sanchez)

opinion, refused to buy grapes which didn't display on their boxes the Black Eagle of the farm workers union, Defense Secretary Melvin Laird declared that a diet of grapes was just what soldiers needed. The Pentagon therefore sent 80% more grapes to Vietnam—grapes picked by scabs.

In spite of this, the double strategy of strike plus boycott was successful. In 1970 the landowners gave in. For the first time they recognized the campesinos as partners in collective bargaining. Wages were increased, child labor prohibited. Protections were inaugurated against dismissal, paid holidays were instituted. Health insurance and old age pensions were promised. The infamous labor contractors of the employers who had hired and fired without restraint were replaced by union hiring halls.

But the agricultural business planned retaliation. It found an ally in America's biggest, richest, but also most corrupt and infamous union: the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. This transport workers union had been excluded 18 years ago

from the big, many-million member organization AFL-CIO on grounds of the criminal methods of their functionaries, the most notable of which was James Hoffa, who in the Kennedy era had been sentenced to 13 years in jail for blackmail, corruption, and tax fraud, and was recently pardoned by Nixon.

Teamster chief Frank Fitzsimmons allied himself with the entrepreneurs of big business. When, in April of 1973, the contract with the UFW expired, only two of the big employers renewed their agreements with Cesar Chavez' union. Thirty others, owning 95% of the grape plantations, took advantage of the situation for revenge. Often within a few hours, they accepted contracts with the corrupt Teamsters.

In fact these contracts were completed, not only without any authorization having been given to the Teamsters by the campesinos, they also annulled many hard-achieved rights. Many of the collective bargaining rights disappeared, as did old age and health agreements and protections

(Cont'd On Page 25)

**International Association of  
Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
Windsor Locks, Connecticut**

**Leather, Luggage, and Handbag  
Workers, Local 213L  
Max Roth, Executive Secretary  
Los Angeles, Calif.**



## Plight of U.S. Farm Worker Told

(Cont'd From Page 24)

against dismissal. Safety rules, especially against poisoning by chemicals in insecticides, were mostly watered down. Child labor is again customary. The hated labor contractors are again hiring and firing at will.

Once again Cesar Chavez tried with strike and boycott to force the agriculture business to come to terms. But just as in former struggles, jobless Mexicans in big numbers are being hired as scabs after being illegally brought into the country with the help of corrupted border guards.

In many incidents of brutal violence, the Teamsters have tried to intimidate the followers of Cesar Chavez. Thugs, hired by the Teamsters at \$64 a day, beat up the pickets and two grape picketers lost their lives.

Since the strike by the intimidated campesinos does not look very promising, Chavez now chooses boycott. Chavez: "Union members shall refuse to handle scab grapes."

Furthermore, Chavez is hoping for support by European consumers,

especially during the time from December to February when the American planters turn to the North and Middle European market outlets for grapes (brand Red Empora) and head lettuce (brand iceberg).

After having sought support for his cause in Finland, England, Sweden and Denmark, Chavez visited Western Germany in the beginning of October to plead before German labor unions.

Altbundespräsident Heinemann supported his visitor:

"The appeal of American farm workers," Heinemann said, "deserves our all-out support."

Bridge, Structural and Ornamental  
Iron Workers,  
AFL-CIO, Local 3

John W. Foley, President  
John H. Hood, Recording Secretary  
Daniel M. Daugherty, Financial Sec.-Treas.  
Nick Stipanovich, Business Agent  
W. H. Sullivan, Business Agent

## Monterey County Labor Council

**John F. Mattos, President**

**Salinas, Calif.**

## United Paperworkers Union,

**Local 1027**

**Scotts, Michigan**

**Offset Workers, Printing Pressmen,  
and Assistants Union, Local 78**  
**Frank Calderon, President,**  
**George Barnet, Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Los Angeles, Calif.**

## United Paperworkers International Union

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**North  
Windham,  
Connecticut**

## International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers, Local 486

**William Zalenski**  
**Jersey City, New Jersey**

## Hospital and Institutional Workers, Local 250

**John Ring**  
**San Francisco, Calif.**

**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace  
Workers**  
**Local 1746A**  
**Southington,  
Connecticut**

## San Mateo Central Labor Council

**Tony Smith,  
President**

**San Mateo,  
Calif.**

## United Auto Workers,

**Solidarity  
House**

**Detroit,  
Michigan**

**International Union of  
Electrical Workers, Local 660**  
**Waterbury, Connecticut**

**International Union of  
Electrical Workers, Local 247**  
**Leo Senese, President**  
**Torrington, Connecticut**



United Steel Workers of  
America, Local 5260

Dan Sciury, President

Canton, Ohio

Jefferson County of Ohio  
Trades and Labor Assembly,  
AFL-CIO

Steubenville, Ohio

Greater Canton AFL-CIO  
Council

William E. Ulycoff

Canton, Ohio

United Steel Workers of  
America, Local 3816

Salem, Ohio

Allied Industrial Workers  
Local 813

Richard Anderson,  
Secretary-Treasurer

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Communications Workers of  
America, Local 4318

Blaine Riggs, President

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International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers,  
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Kenneth Jones, President

Ohio

United Steel Workers of  
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Warren, Ohio

## ¡VIVA LA HUELGA!

International Molders and  
Allied Workers Union

Anton J. Trizna, President

William F. Cates, Secretary

Cincinnati, Ohio

... The following program is  
suggested for mature  
audiences. Those easily  
disturbed or offended are  
urged to tune to another  
station.  
And now, we present the  
President of the United  
States speaking on the  
economy ...



Dave Hereth Pittsburg Forum/LNS

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United Farm Workers

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Doug Van Auken, Vice President

Scott Altfelt, Secretary

Randi Cimorell, Treasurer

Steve Barnett, Ed. Chairman

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and all the

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Twin City Carpenters  
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Service Employees International Union  
Public School Employees  
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and Aerospace Workers  
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of Electrical Workers  
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Laborer's Local 500  
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Support Committee  
Joe and Felicitas Mendiola  
Ken and Rosa Maria Cromer  
and Steven Weil  
Lorain, Ohio

International Brotherhood  
of Pottery and Allied Workers  
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Mrs. Phyllis Doughty  
East Liverpool, Ohio



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United Steel Workers of America, Local 14782;  
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United Steel Workers of America, Local 8299;  
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Molders and Foundry Workers, Local 127;  
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Communications Workers of America, Local 10310;  
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International Molders and Allied Workers Union, Local 97;  
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Wesley Rentz, President;  
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United Auto Workers, Local 329;  
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South Oakland Community Support Organization;  
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Northwest Detroit Farm Workers Support Committee;  
George Delgado, UFW Organizer;  
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63B, Building Service Employees International Union;  
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Customers at National Food Store on Florissant Road and Chambers;  
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Labor Union 5, United Garment Workers of America;  
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J.P. Murray, Secretary-Treasurer;  
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Lakewood, Ohio.

Utility Workers Union of America, Local 397;  
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Ravenna, Ohio.

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Allied Industrial Workers of America, Local 28;  
Massillon, Ohio.

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St. George's Episcopal Church;  
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Glass Bottle Blowers Association;  
Phil Trout;  
Zanesville, Ohio.

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 306;  
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Ravenna, Ohio.



# Steelers Ask Help for Fired Unionists

Bayard, New Mexico—United Steel Workers of America Local 890 appealed to fraternal unions around the country January 10 for help against what it said is a union-busting attempt by Kennecott Copper Corporation in collusion with the Teamsters.

The USWA local said the company fired 890's president, Juan Chacon, and the secretary, Israel Romero; suspended the union's grievance officer, Willie Gonzales; and issued reprimands to 200 workers for picketing during a contract dispute last July.

"As if this were not enough," said Chacon, "the Teamsters Union is helping the companies divide the workers by raiding Local 890."

"Learning from the farm workers, we wonder if the companies invited them in to replace the union we have worked so long to build," Chacon said.

The local said the company retaliated against rank-and-file members who voted to strike when their contract ex-

pired July 1. The strike ended when a new contract was signed July 21, but three months later the company fired Chacon and Romero even though they were on leave at the time of the strike.

Chacon explained that the company had notified the local on April 16 that it wanted to terminate the old contract when it expired in July and negotiate a new contract containing a "wipe-out" clause that would drop all unresolved issues.

He said the company sought a court injunction against the strike in early July; Norman Hodges denied it because there was no legal binding contract.

"Unable to exert its will by legal means, Kennecott resorted to naked economic power . . . Kennecott seeks to punish these union officials for participation in an action voted unanimously by the union membership," Chacon said.

The union local appealed to fraternal unions to ask

Kennecott officials to reinstate Chacon and Romero, and to urge the USWA district director to support the rank-and-filers' right to vote on acceptance or rejection of any collective bargaining agreement governing conditions of their work.

Supporters should write to: R.R. Leveille, General Manager, Chino Mines Division, Kennecott Copper Corporation, Hurley, New Mexico 88043; and Frank S. McKee, USWA District 38 Director, 720 Airport Imperial Towers, 999 N. Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo, Calif. 90245.

The local also asked for contributions to the Chacon and Romero Defense Fund, 302 Tom Foy Blvd., Bayard, N.M. 88023.



## Lawyers Draft Writ for Gallo's Records

Merced, Calif.—The Merced Legal Office of the United Farm Workers union drafted a writ for Appeals Court in January that seeks to force E & J Gallo Wineries to prove the Teamsters Union represents a majority of its workers. (A writ is a court order.)

UFW attorneys said they were filing the writ in appeals court to reverse a ruling by Justice Walter Lane of Livingston which said Gallo did not have to produce the evidence.

The case involved two UFW organizers, Gilbert

Rodriguez and Juan Perez, who were charged with misdemeanor trespass and malicious mischief during picketing at Gallo vineyards in September, 1974.

The union lawyers sought the evidence from Gallo because the company complained about the organizers on the grounds the Gallo workers were already under contract to the Teamsters. But Robert J. Gallo refused to answer the UFW subpoena for the records. Instead, Gallo sent Fresno growers' attorney Bill Quinlan to argue that the request for evidence was improper.

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**New Jersey State AFL-CIO**  
**Charles Marcianti, President**  
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**¡VIVA LA HUELGA!**

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**DETROIT NEWSPAPER PRINTING  
PRESSMEN'S UNION  
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United Steel Workers  
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R. L. Rasberry, Business Manager  
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Machinists and Aerospace  
Workers, Lodge 949  
David J. Schulte, President  
St. Louis, Missouri

International Association of  
Machinists and Aerospace Workers,  
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Cincinnati, Ohio  
The Militant Newspaper,  
Almagamated Workers of America,  
AFL-CIO

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Local 5  
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New York, New York

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United Steel Workers  
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Steve Towczak,  
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Retail, Wholesale and  
Department Store Union  
AFL-CIO, Local 277  
Louis Filippi,  
President  
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International Molders  
and Allied Workers,  
Local 11,  
Norman Eberhart,  
President,  
Marshalltown, Iowa

United Steel Workers  
of America,  
Local 6531  
Danny Crabtree,  
Cincinnati, Ohio



*American Federation  
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Industrial Organizations*

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*Si Se Puede*

**Los Angeles County  
Federation of Labor  
AFL-CIO**

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**Sigmund Arywitz,  
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**J. J. Rodriguez  
President**



RFK Issues Legal Notice

Notice to Members

To all members of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO: Your medical plan, the Robert F. Kennedy Farm Workers Medical Plan, has just completed its sixth year. Total benefits paid by the plan will soon top the \$4,000,000 mark. We expect our plan to continue to grow and provide the kinds of benefits you and your families need.

Recent changes in federal law may require some changes in the legal structure of your medical plan and some changes in the kinds of insurance which the plan must buy to insure you, the plan members, against loss of your benefits.

Because your union officers who serve on the Kennedy Plan Board of Trustees are out fighting on the boycott, and can only meet together in California every three months, and because it will take some time for your plan's attorney, consultants, and advisors to work out the new legal structures which the law requires, the plan has applied to the Department of Labor for a postponement, until June 30, 1975, of those parts of the new law which cover how responsibility for managing the plan is divided between your trustees, administrator, you consultants and advisors, and how the plan may insure against loss of your trust funds and benefits.

When your union officers return to California in March for the Executive Board Meeting, they will also attend a Kennedy Plan Board meeting where the required legal changes will be discussed and the types of insurance available can be considered.

The trustees will want to consider these legal changes and insurance matters and come back in June of this year to vote the final changes and insurance policies required.

Your medical plan believes that this postponement of six months will be in the best interests of the membership as the plan is now administered by a legal trust which meets all federal laws and requirements.

The plan needs time to seek the right kinds of insurance and this insurance is not yet available because the law is so new.

Any member may comment on the plan's request for a postponement by writing to the Office of Employees Benefits Security, Labor-Management Services Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, P.O. Box 176, Washington, D.C. 20044.

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Unfair Profits found in Food Chains Records

Washington, D.C.— Senator William Proxmire said Jan. 8 that the Congressional Joint Economic Committee had found "disturbing evidence" of unfair profits by four big food store chains.

Sen. Proxmire, vice chairman of the committee, said the evidence was obtained from records subpoenaed several months ago from Winn-Dixie, Grand Union,

Kroger and A & P food chains.

The senator said further that the refusal of the four companies to testify before the committee indicates the unfairness of the chains' further food-pricing policies. Therefore, the senator cancelled further food-pricing hearings before the committee.

The companies denied that they had refused to testify.

West St. Louis  
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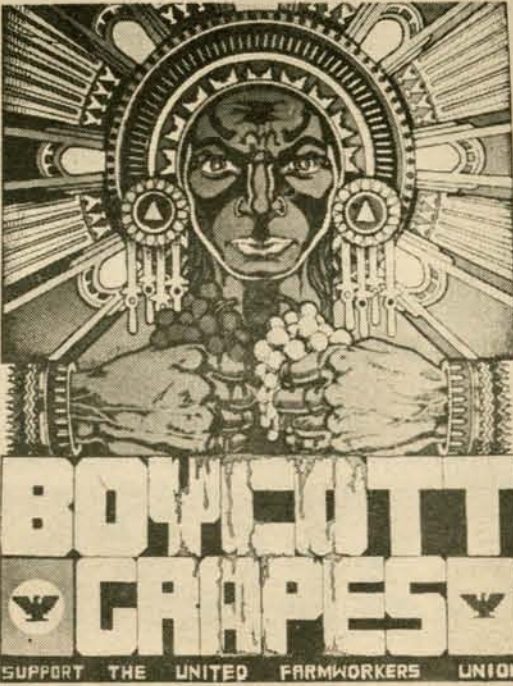
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