

FOOD AND JUSTICE

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Child Labor
and Child
Abuse on
the Farm.




Child abuse is getting a lot of attention. But child labor -- a form of child abuse -- is still common in California, Arizona, Texas and throughout the nation.

Some 800,000 underaged children survive by harvesting crops with their families across America¹. Malnutrition among migrant kids is 10 times higher than the national rate²; farm worker babies suffer 25% higher infant mortality³...and some are born deformed because of toxic pesticides carelessly sprayed in the fields⁴. Kids as young as six years old have voted in state-conducted union election since they qualified as workers⁵. "Without them we couldn't survive," one migrant parent admitted.

Many growers say children are in the fields because their parents want them to work. Some well-meaning people think the answer is better education and more social programs. We disagree!

Where farm workers enjoy the protections of UFW contracts we have succeeded in nearly eliminating this vile abuse. These workers earn enough so they don't have to migrate anymore with their children; their kids go to school and they can afford to live in decent homes instead of rancid farm labor camps.

But only about 20% of California farm workers enjoy these protections. For the rest, poverty and abuse are daily facts of life. We in the UFW are working to change that. 

1. U.S. Civil Rights Commission, 1978
2. U.S. Senate Labor & Public Welfare Committee, 1974
3. U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, 1980
4. KRON-TV News Report, 1984
5. Calif. Agricultural Labor Relations Board, 1980

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Direct all correspondence to:
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'Casting Off Disgrace' in Texas

The United Farm Workers won an eight year battle with the enactment last year of landmark legislation granting workers' compensation benefits for the first time to Texas farm workers.

After signing the bill into law, Texas Governor Mark White proclaimed that "we have succeeded in casting off the disgrace and dishonor of allowing an entire sector of our agricultural work force to do work that could be hazardous to health and safety without the protection provided by basic medical benefits enjoyed by all the other workers."

Rebecca Flores Harrington, state UFW director and lobbyist, led the long fight for the farm workers' newly

won rights. "Back in 1967," she said, "we organized a march to Austin to try and get a minimum wage of \$1 an hour. On the way, then-Governor John Connally met us at a roadside park and told us we might as well turn around and go back because neither he nor anyone else would be at the capitol to meet us."

Harrington and the farm workers didn't turn back that day. The UFW fought for and eventually won raises in the minimum wage. Then farm workers began a drive for workers' compensation.

In 1977, a UFW-backed bill was introduced in both the Texas House and Senate, but it was quickly killed.



Passing out pens: the end of an eight year struggle.

Photo by Riggo Ordaz



Photo by Rigo Ordaz

Texas Governor Mark White came to the Rio Grande Valley to sign the new workers' compensation bill as farm workers looked on.

In 1979, the proposal was passed by the House but died in the Senate. Two years later, when it appeared the bill would finally pass, agribusiness allies staged a filibuster during the final hours of the Senate's regular session and killed the measure.

After Lt. Governor Bill Hobby helped work out a compromise the bill finally passed on June 30 in a special

summer legislative session. Only the arch-conservative Texas Farm Bureau opposed the bill right up to the end.

When the legislation was approved, Harrington said "passing this law after an eight year struggle is a tribute to the rising political clout of the farm worker movement and the Hispanic community. It is also a tribute to those who have stood with us and



UFW Texas Director Rebecca Flores Harrington speaks to farm workers and supporters during the bill signing ceremony.



Father Jorge Farias and UFW member Zulema Hernandez at the mass of thanksgiving in San Juan.

worked for justice in our struggle."

State Rep. Juan Hinojosa, one of the bill's sponsors, called the hard-fought effort the end of a "war." "We farm workers (Hinojosa grew up as a farm worker in the Rio Grande Valley) were treated as a subclass, out of sight, ignored, suffering by ourselves. But we never gave up because we believed in justice."

"John Connally met us at a roadside park and told us we might as well turn around and go back because neither he nor anyone else would be at the capitol to meet us."

State Senator Hector Uribe was another co-sponsor. He viewed passage of the bill -- along with other UFW victories such as outlawing the infamous short-handled hoe and winning regulations to provide field toilets, drinking water, and hand-washing facilities for farm workers -- as a legislative "renaissance" and a sign that Texas is emerging from the "Dark Ages."

Farm workers celebrated on the day the bill was signed with a mass of

"...passing this law after an eight year struggle is a tribute to the rising political clout of the farm worker movement and the Hispanic community."

thanksgiving at the Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan. Part of the pageantry of flags, music and processions was the offering by farm workers of symbolic gifts including many of the fruits and vegetables they help produce, copies

of the new law, and bread and wine.

Governor White travelled to the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas to sign the historic new law as farm workers looked on. After signing the bill the Governor passed out pens to farm workers and autographed their red and black UFW banners.

He told hundreds of assembled farm workers and local officials that the bill signing was "a proud moment for me, the leadership of the Texas House and Senate. Most of all, this is a proud moment for the legislators, farm labor leaders, and farm workers of Texas who have worked long and hard for this day. No longer will we tolerate the exclusion under law of those who pick our produce, harvest our crops, and put food on our tables."

"Governor White travelled to the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas to sign the historic new law as farm workers looked on. After signing the bill the Governor passed out pens to farm workers and autographed their red and black UFW banners."

Jim Harrington, Rebecca's husband and director of the Texas American Civil Liberties Union, said credit for the victory belongs to the farm workers who sacrificed and organized to ensure success: "It is you who, after more than eight years of fighting and never giving up, achieved the victory."

After the mass and signing ceremony, officials, guests and farm workers met at the UFW hall in San Juan for a fiesta of singing and dancing.



Sister Carol Ann Messina and Cesar Chavez.

'She wasn't satisfied to do charity work'

Farm workers in Texas are mourning the death of Sister Carol Ann Messina, 47, a tireless champion of farm worker rights who died January 14 after a brief illness.

Sister Carol Ann played a key role in passage of important legislation for farm workers, including coverage under workers' compensation (see story on page 3) and a 1981 measure banning the back-breaking short-handled hoe in Texas.

In 1979, with financial aid from the National Farm Worker Ministry, Sister Carol Ann joined the UFW staff and began her work in the Rio Grande Valley. She lobbied, worked to relieve the suffering of workers hard-hit by the 1983 Texas freeze, and spent time on voter registration drives and political campaigns.

Last December she returned to her home in New Jersey to visit her

80-year old mother. Sister Carol Ann was then hospitalized for hepatitis. She fell into a coma, recovered briefly, and died a few days later of kidney and liver failure.

"She was never satisfied just to do charity work for people," UFW Texas Director Rebecca Flores Harrington said. "She was always struggling and fighting for the rights of poor people."

"Just the way she was, the way she spoke -- she was a commanding figure at the capitol," according to state Sen. Hector Uribe.

Condolences from thousands of farm workers as well as community, religious and political leaders poured in from across the state. The Texas Legislature unanimously passed a resolution praising Sister Carol Ann Messina for her love of the poor and her accomplishments on behalf of farm workers in Texas.

Deukmejian Prosecutor Hands Grower Names Of Secret Witnesses Who Informed On Company

Prosecutors for Gov. George Deukmejian allowed attorneys for a major lettuce grower unrestricted access to confidential files containing the names of farm workers who bore witness against the company in return for the promise of anonymity.

One attorney and two paralegals from the Los Angeles lawfirm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher -- which represents Bruce Church Inc. -- spent several days last fall in Sacramento reviewing 15 boxes of privileged files. The data covered two years of investigation and litigation against Church. They were used in the successful prosecution of the company for refusing to bargain in good faith with its farm workers.

The five-member Agricultural Labor Relations Board ruled in December

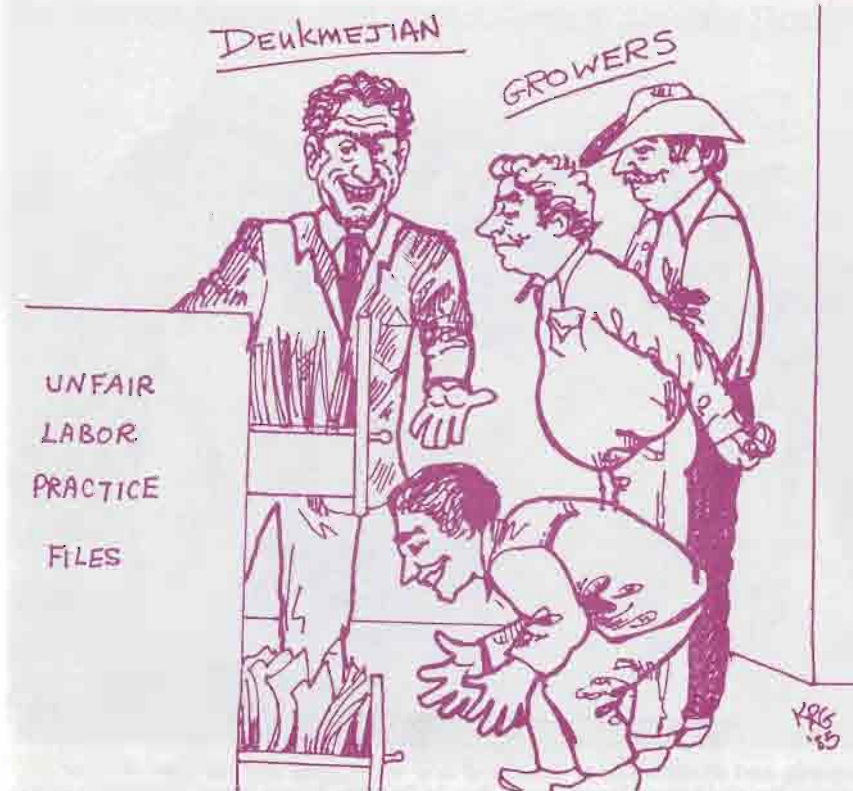
1983 that Church broke the law by failing to negotiate in good faith for a contract with the United Farm Workers.

The ALRB files shown to Church's lawyers feature internal staff memos, attorney-client communications and other confidential documents. They also include the names of hundreds of farm worker witnesses, many of whom were promised confidentiality by the ALRB. ALRB investigators and prosecutors often agree to keep growers from learning the identity of worker witnesses because many farm workers will not otherwise cooperate for fear of reprisals from their employers.

"Now it is well known among farm workers throughout the state that Gov. Deukmejian's men will turn your name and what you said over to the



The toll in human tragedy caused by Gov. Deukmejian can be seen in the faces of grape worker Gustavo Guzman and his family. He was fired in 1984 after joining co-workers in showing support for the UFW at Lucas & Sons Ranch near Delano. "I was fired a year ago and the ALRB has not even set a hearing date" in his case, Guzman said.



Cartoon by Kathy Ruiz Garin

boss if you talk to the ALRB about grower abuses," UFW President Cesar Chavez said.

ALRB General Counsel David Stirling agreed to show the files to Church's attorneys. "What Deukmejian's prosecutor (Stirling) has done is analogous to a district attorney giving convicted criminals privileged information about their cases which are on appeal," California Assemblyman Richard Alatorre said. "It's outrageous. It's unheard of in National Labor Relations Board practice."

Alatorre authored the 1975 law which created the ALRB. The state Auditor General is investigating Stirling's release of the confidential

ALRB files to the grower at Alatorre's request.

"Any National Labor Relations Board general counsel who released such sensitive documents to his adversary in a pending litigation would be subject to removal from office," Alatorre said. Church is appealing its conviction by the ALRB. "By his actions, Mr. Stirling has made himself a branch of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (Church's lawfirm)," the assemblyman concluded.

After the five member ALRB learned the Church files had been released it sought a court order prohibiting Stirling from turning over the data. On December 3, Sacramento Superior

Dr. Marion Moses and Agriculture's 'Deadly Dozen'



Eugenio and Matilde Lopez (husband and wife) were not recalled to their jobs at Tex-Cal Land Management Inc. in Delano. Eugenio had testified against the company before the ALRB and is a known UFW supporter. Tex-Cal foremen told Matilde, "the company wants to take all the UFW members out" and that she should "never mind going back to work."

Court Judge John Sapunor blocked Stirling from releasing the materials to Church without first discussing the data with ALRB members.

ALRB members and the UFW praised the ruling. But Board Member Jerome Waldie said Stirling's release of the files to Church was "the most outrageous conduct" in exposing farm workers to possible intimidation and retaliation since Deukmejian took office in January 1983.

Stirling, a Deukmejian appointee, has indicated that he will continue to give attorneys for Church access to ALRB files in his possession even

though their client's case is still being considered by the state Court of Appeals. He also rejected a request from ALRB members to follow document request guidelines observed by the National Labor Relations Board's general counsel in Washington, D.C.

Stirling, the chief enforcement officer of the ALRB, agreed to requests by Church's lawyers to examine the agency's files even though he admitted they had not been purged of confidential and privileged documents, including the names of secret farm worker witnesses. ♣



Dr. Marion Moses

In this issue we are pleased to introduce you to Dr. Marion Moses, a long-time friend and volunteer for La Causa, and now the medical director of our farm worker clinics.

Dr. Moses is one of the country's leading specialists in environmental disease, particularly the effect of pesticides on farm workers and on the food supply for American consumers.

In coming months, we will present a series of features on 12 agricultural pesticides which Dr. Moses calls "The Deadly Dozen." She is convinced these pesticides should be banned in our fields, orchards and vineyards.

This series will help make you aware of the danger these chemicals pose for farm workers as well as consumers.

Dr. Marion Moses, 49, was only seven years old when she made up her mind to be a doctor.

Born in Wheeling, West Virginia the second of eight children, Moses was only seven years old when her young sister, Margaret Rose, died. She sensed that her death shouldn't have happened, someone should have been able to save her. "Call it whatever you want to -- intuition or whatever," she said, "but I knew at that moment I wanted to be a doctor when I grew up."

A few years later, as a sophomore in high school, Moses experienced another event, one that would lead her to the farm workers movement in California. She read John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*.

She read it and re-read it. Hanging on the wall of her office at United Farm Workers headquarters in La Paz -- next to a modern icon-like picture of the late Dorothy Day, her friend and former patient -- is a quotation from that book done in calligraphy by a personal friend:

*There is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation.
There is a sorrow here that weeping cannot symbolize.
There is a failure here that topples all our success.*

After high school, Moses settled on becoming a nurse instead of a doctor. "I was broken-hearted when Dad told me there wasn't enough money to put me through medical school," she said. "And it made matters worse when he added that girls should be nurses anyway, not doctors."

So she attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., earned her degree, and practiced nursing. She also received a master's degree at Columbia University in New York and taught nursing classes.

In the early 1960s she went to

California and took a position with the Kaiser Foundation Hospital. Off and on she enrolled in pre-med courses at the University of California, Berkeley. It was there that she heard about Cesar Chavez and *La Causa*. "I couldn't believe it when I found out the way farm workers were being abused right in our own back yard," she said.

Moses soon began organizing support for farm workers in the Bay Area. She walked her first picketline during the UFW's Schenley and DiGiorgio boycotts in 1966. As the grape strike and boycott in the Delano area continued (it was to last five years), Moses became more and more involved. She went to Delano on weekends to help. "Was that hectic!" she said. "I'd make the five hour drive at 5:30 a.m., take care of as many farm worker patients as I could, and then drive back late Sunday night."

Finally, Moses agreed to work full-time in Delano for a month. That was in July 1966. She ended up staying five years.

In 1967, when it became obvious that the UFW would not win contracts without a boycott of grapes, Moses was asked to go to Toronto to work on the boycott. She protested to Cesar Chavez: "What about the clinic? Who's going to take care of the medical needs here?" The answer came fast, she said, when Chavez asked her: "Marion, what good will it be to have a clinic if we don't have a union?"

Moses worked on the boycott in Montreal, Philadelphia, and New York before returning to California in 1969.

One day in Salinas, Chavez, watching her work feverishly in a make-shift clinic, asked, "Marion, why don't you become a doctor?" That remark spurred her into taking the last step in realizing her childhood ambition.

"Call it whatever you want to -- intuition or whatever," she said, "but I knew at that moment I wanted to be a doctor when I grew up."

After searching for a medical school that would accept a woman in her 30s, she received her M.D. degree from Temple University in Philadelphia at the age of 40.

During her residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, Moses focused her professional interest on an issue which she was first exposed to in California -- the effects of agricultural poisons on workers. This interest drew her back to California. "After all," she said, "there aren't a lot of farm workers on the East Side of Manhattan."

"I couldn't believe it when I found out the way farm workers were being abused right in our own back yard," she said.

Moses' professional credentials equal her compassion and dedication. In addition to her professional degrees, memberships, and committee appointments, she has written extensively on pesticides in *The American Journal of Industrial Medicine, Environmental Research, and Environmental and Occupational Medicine*.



Dr. Marion Moses: fulfilling a childhood ambition.

Moses is insistent that *Food and Justice* readers realize she is not a pesticide alarmist who cries "wolf!" at the sight of any multi-syllabic chemical name ending in "ide" or "phate."

Moses' eyes flash with anger when she warns that she does not want to be portrayed as a pesticide crusader who jumps at the chance to proclaim the latest cancer-causing chemical. "It's no wonder people are getting so deadened to the issue that nowadays you see bumper stickers like 'Living causes cancer,'" she said.

Moses said there are many pesticides to be genuinely concerned about, and it is in the interest of both

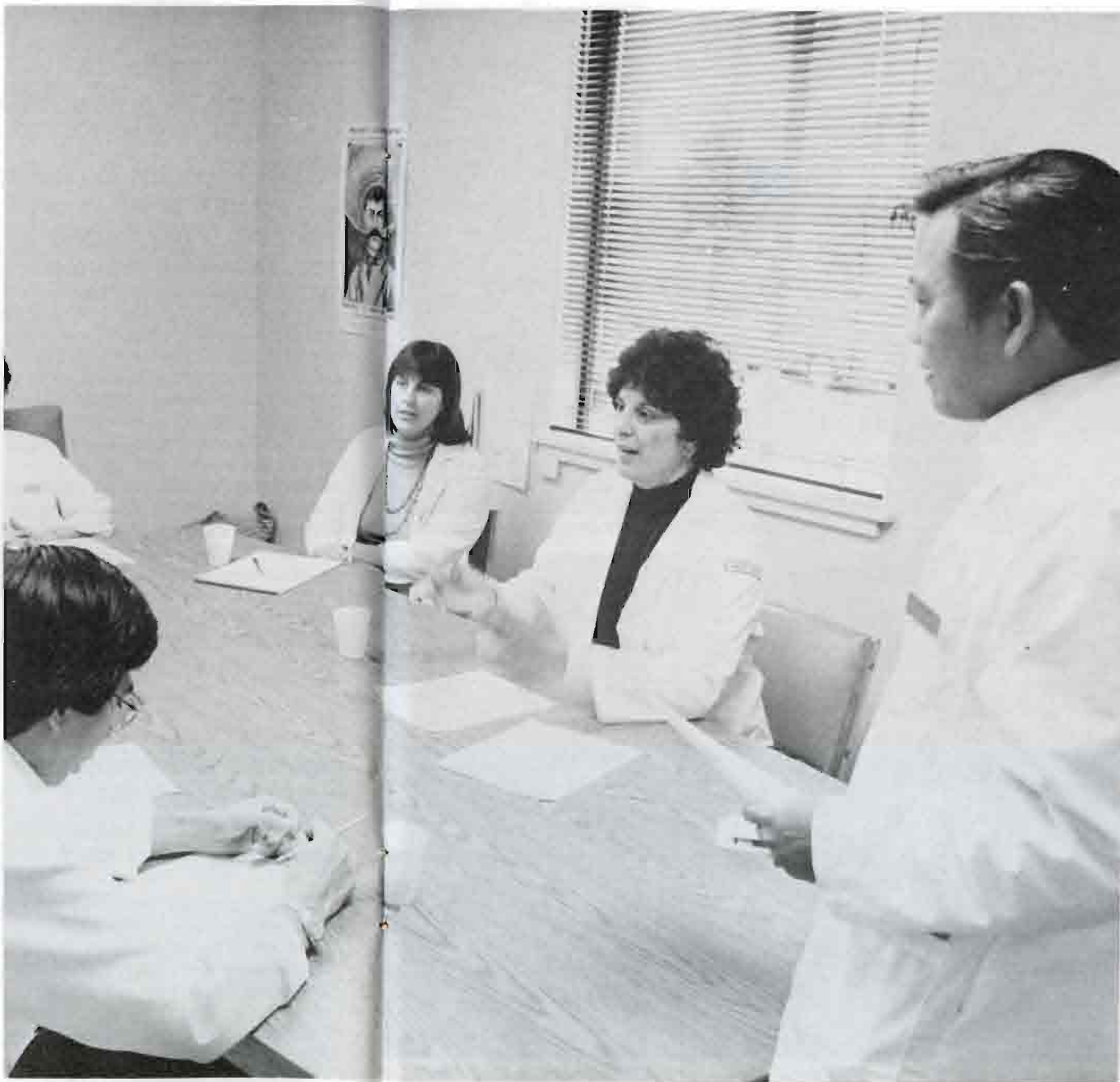
farm workers and consumers to know about them. These include "The Deadly Dozen" which *Food and Justice* will highlight in coming months.

These 12 pesticides have four things in common, Moses said. They have poisoned or killed farm workers, left harmful residues on marketed food, and caused cancer and birth defects in laboratory animals.

"The Deadly Dozen," Moses said, "are pesticides no grower should ever use on crops or fields. No farm worker should ever come in contact with them and no consumer should ever have to worry about them being on food sold in supermarkets!"



Dr. Marion Moses (second from right) meeting with the staff of the farm workers' clinic in Salinas.



Child Abuse on the Farm



Helping to make agribusiness California's richest industry.



A boy doing a man's job.



Child labor is still commonplace in many California crops including strawberries.



What does the future hold?



Photo by Cathy Murphy

Child labor is a form of child abuse.



"Where farm workers enjoy the protections of UFW contracts we have succeeded in nearly eliminating this vile abuse."



For grape workers there is no child care in the vineyards.



Taking a break.



Using discarded chemical containers to harvest crops in the San Joaquin Valley.



Stoop labor at an early age.



Photo by Cathy Murphy



Many migrant families can't



survive unless the children work.

Fighting Child Abuse

It is a bitter irony of our times that those who produce the richest bounty of food in history too often don't have enough to feed their own children.

Some California crops are notorious for employing large numbers of children. Like the onions, where the young boy pictured, is working.

At ranches where farm workers are protected by United Farm Workers contracts, child labor has been largely eliminated.

There farm workers earn decent pay and benefits so their children don't have to work. But too many farm worker children still labor under a hot sun in onion fields and other crops.

Hundreds of good people in the United Farm Workers are spending their lives fighting this vile form of child abuse. But they can't do it alone. You can help end child labor for farm workers.



(tear off and return)

Cesar Chavez, UFW, P.O. Box 62, Keene, CA 93570

Dear Cesar Chavez:

Enclosed is my gift to help the United Farm Workers end child labor in the fields:

_____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ \$5 _____ other

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to United Farm Workers.

Lawyer For The Farm Workers

When Ellen Eggers, 34, an attorney for the United Farm Workers, talks about her involvement with the UFW, she laughs. She left her home in Fort Wayne, Indiana for California to volunteer for just one summer, she said. That was in 1972. She's been with the farm workers ever since.

"I'm a little like the comedian who said he spent a week in Philadelphia last night. Well, I spent 13 years with the UFW in the summer of 1972. The only difference is it hasn't been

boring!"

Getting involved in volunteer work was as natural to Eggers as breathing. It was a way of life at her Catholic elementary and secondary schools. She also credits her mother and Fr. Marion Douglas, a priest doing inner-city social work in Cincinnati, for influencing her.

Eggers chose social work as her major at Ball State University in Muncie. She received her bachelor's degree and was planning for a mas-



Ellen Eggers and son, Tomas, at La Paz.

ter's in social work when the summer of 1972 came along. "I didn't know much about the UFW at that time," she said, "but a good friend showed me a brochure about the UFW that pleaded for volunteers. So I went for the summer. Little did I know."

After working as a boycott organizer for almost three years in the Los Angeles area, Eggers was assigned to the UFW legal department's Salinas office in June 1975. "I really got hooked there," she said. "I couldn't believe the range of activities. Everything from taking a declaration in a broccoli field to arguing cases before the California Supreme Court!"

Two months later she returned to Indiana to begin law school. But each summer she returned to California to work in the UFW legal department. She received her law degree from Valparaiso University in 1978, passed the Indiana and Michigan bars, returned to California, passed the California bar...and went to work.

The wide range of legal activities that impressed Ellen Eggers in Salinas in 1975 soon became her life. Eggers' assignments have included major cases involving Gov. George Deukmejian's non-enforcement of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, and recently, a multi-million dollar suit filed in state court against *The Village Voice* for its libel of Cesar Chavez and the UFW.

Eggers is popular at La Paz because of her ready laugh, friendliness, and optimism. But she can also get fighting mad.

One thing that makes her see red is the flagrant disregard for the farm labor law passed in 1975: "How politicians like Deukmejian can get elected and then make a shambles of a good law we fought so hard to win infuriates me. We've got to get him out of office and the law back in force!"

Another big part of Eggers' life at



UFW attorney Ellen Eggers reviewing a brief at her desk in the legal department.

La Paz is her three-year-old son, Tomas. As a single parent, the pressures of raising a child and working at a job requiring much travel and long hours can be frustrating at times, she admitted. "But," she quickly added, "I don't know what I'd do without Tomas. He means the world to me." 🐔

The King Fund: Helping Farm Workers

Each day the Martin Luther King Jr. Fund, an arm of the farm workers' movement, helps people with the myriad of social and economic problems they face through 14 service centers located in agricultural communities across California.

One interesting service center case followed the severe earthquake that devastated the central California city of Coalinga on May 2, 1983.

Amazingly, only one person was seriously injured: Walter Fratti, a 37-year-old UFW member who had gone to town that day to translate for two Spanish-speaking workers. Fratti

suffered severe head injuries when the store he was in collapsed. It was several months before he partially recovered from a coma and complete paralysis.

Estela Velez, director of the MLK service center in nearby Huron, immediately contacted Fratti's wife, Alejandra, in Mexicali, Mexico and arranged for her and two of her children to come to be with Fratti. Velez found housing for them, drove them to see Fratti every day, and obtained medical and disability benefits for the injured worker. Velez was aided by the service center director



The farm worker service centers are named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



A farm worker turns for help to King Fund Service Center Director Juan Huerta in Salinas.



The Salinas MLK Service Center's director, Juan Huerta (seated at right) meets with farm worker clients.

in Parlier, Estela Juarez.

Three months after the earthquake, Fratt, still in a coma, was transferred to Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego. Minnie Ybarra, who heads the MLK service center in San Ysidro, about 20 miles away, took Fratt's family into her own home for several days until she could arrange housing for them. Ybarra stayed in constant contact with the family while Fratt's condition slowly improved. "It was hectic, but we managed somehow," she said.

After six months in San Diego, Fratt was transferred to a Brawley hospital so he could be closer to his family during a four-month period of convalescence. There Fratt and his family came under the care of Juan Guicho, director of the service center in nearby Calexico.

Almost a year after the earthquake, Fratt finally was well enough to go home. Guicho visits the family in Mexicali, across the international border from Calexico, every month. He delivers Fratt's disability check and looks after other family needs.

Throughout the long ordeal, Alejandra Fratt repeatedly expressed her thanks for the help the Fratt family received from the UFW and the MLK service centers. "I don't know what we would have done if Walter hadn't belonged to the union," she said. 🐔



United Farm Workers attorney Ellen Eggers is one of the many dedicated men and women who are helping win a better life for farm workers.

But she and her colleagues in the UFW's Legal Department can't do it alone. They need others who want to give of themselves for this good cause.

If you or someone you know is an attorney -- or if you're just interested in serving full time with the farm workers' movement -- send in for more information by returning this form.

tear off and return

Cesar Chavez, UFW, P.O. Box 62, Keene, CA 93570

Dear Cesar Chavez:

I would like more information about your work for social justice.

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____

Even Growers Admit the Boycott Works

The United Farm Workers has been winning boycotts against growers for 19 years. In the past most in agribusiness would not admit boycotts were successful. Even when the boycott forced growers to agree to their workers' demands, agricultural employers would never concede that they gave in because of pressure from farm workers.

people and companies to join them... against a variety of people and products in agriculture."

"Each day, more and more grocery retailers and fast food chains are finding themselves faced with making difficult decisions on whether or not to join in the UFW's new, high-tech boycott campaign," Arnold stated.

The Western Growers Association,



Daryl Arnold at a 1974 picketline.

Photo by Kres Fraley

But times are changing.

The UFW's boycott of Bruce Church Inc. is becoming so effective that testimonials on its success are coming from unusual places, such as official magazines published by the most anti-union grower organizations.

Take the January 1985 issue of *Western Grower and Shipper*, a publication of the anti-UFW Western Growers Association. In it WGA President Daryl Arnold wrote that the boycott "is being used successfully by the United Farm Workers to get

which Arnold heads, helps growers break the law by counseling employers on how to intimidate workers who back the UFW. WGA attorneys have advised growers to refuse to negotiate in good faith for contracts. Arnold has led efforts in Sacramento to gut the state law that guarantees the farm workers' right to organize. He has also helped raise millions of dollars for anti-farm worker politicians such as Republican Governor George Deukmejian.


So when Daryl Arnold says the boycott is working, it must be true. 



Photo by Dennis Hearne

"A law not enforced is worse than no law at all."

By State Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti

A law which is not enforced is worse than no law at all.

California Governor George Deukmejian may be tough on "law and order," but there is more to law and order than crime in the streets -- there is crime in the workplace, too. Unfortunately, when it comes to law enforcement in California's workplaces and fields, the Governor seems more concerned with protecting employers accused of breaking the law than with protecting the workers who are victimized by them.

What would people say if a crusading district attorney suddenly announced that the courts and police were too "biased" in favor of the rights of crime victims? Yet no one

seems terribly shocked or surprised when Governor Deukmejian says that California's Agricultural Labor Relations Board is too "biased" in favor of the workers who are victimized by the illegal acts of powerful growers.

In his first two budgets, Governor Deukmejian first cut 30% from the ALRB's law enforcement budget, then vetoed the Legislature's \$1 million program to enforce compliance with the ALRB's orders. Those ALRB orders call for millions of dollars in back pay for thousands of farm workers who lost jobs or wages because growers violated the law. Without such a compliance program, the Agricultural Labor Relations Act is a paper tiger. Without enforcement

of the act, growers are encouraged to destroy the rights of farm workers to organize and bargain without fear of the consequences.

"What would people say if a crusading district attorney suddenly announced that the courts and police were too 'biased' in favor of the rights of crime victims?"

As general counsel, Governor Deukmejian's appointee, David Stirling, has made a bad situation worse by allowing an enormous backlog of worker complaints to accumulate, causing tragic and needless delay. Lately, the general counsel has begun to reduce that backlog by wholesale dismissal of many worker and union complaints, denying workers their

day in court.

I believe that the people of the State of California want their laws vigorously enforced, and that means **all** laws -- especially those which protect California's farm workers.

"I believe that the people of the State of California want their laws vigorously enforced, and that means all laws -- especially those which protect California's farm workers."

That is why we in the Legislature are preparing once again to do battle with the Governor and his budget to ensure that "law and order" means equal protection for farm workers as well as the victims of other crimes.



California Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti addressing the UFW's constitutional convention last September in Bakersfield.

(As President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, David Roberti leads the upper house of the California Legislature. He has been an outspoken ally of labor and a champion of legislative reforms in such areas as consumer protection and comparable worth. Senator Roberti has been a staunch advocate for farm workers since his election to the Legislature in 1966.)

Will you keep an eye out for us?

The farm workers need volunteers in major cities to be on the lookout for fruits for vegetables we are boycotting in the supermarkets. A small sacrifice of time and effort would be required. But the information you can provide would be invaluable. Just watch for items farm workers are boycotting and let us know what you see in the supermarket where you shop. If you can help in the farm workers' Store Watch Program, please fill out and return this form.

(Tear off and return to:)

Cesar Chavez, Store Watch Program, P.O. Box 62, Keene, CA 93570

☐ I want to help you watch for products boycotted by the UFW.

Please list the supermarket in your area that you could keep an eye on (If you could do more than one include others on a separate slip of paper). We will send you a store watch information kit.

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Name of Supermarket _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

32

The Wobblies and the Wheatland Riot

One of the early attempts to organize farm workers was begun in the early 1900s by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), known as the Wobblies. Their rapid gains in strength in the western part of the U.S. led to a tragic event known as the Wheatland Riot.

The Wobblies were formed in Chicago in 1905. They began organizing in California but had to battle for the right to exist with hostile police, sheriff's deputies and vigilantes. The IWW organized lumber workers

and farm workers. By 1913, although their actual numbers were small, the Wobblies had become influential in the state.

But the growers were rich and powerful, and a struggle between the bosses and the Wobblies was inevitable.

The Wheatland Riot happened because growers commonly advertised for many more workers than they needed. In August 1913, Wheatland, Calif. grower E.B. Durst advertised in



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"There were nine toilets for 2,800 people (1,500 were women and children)."

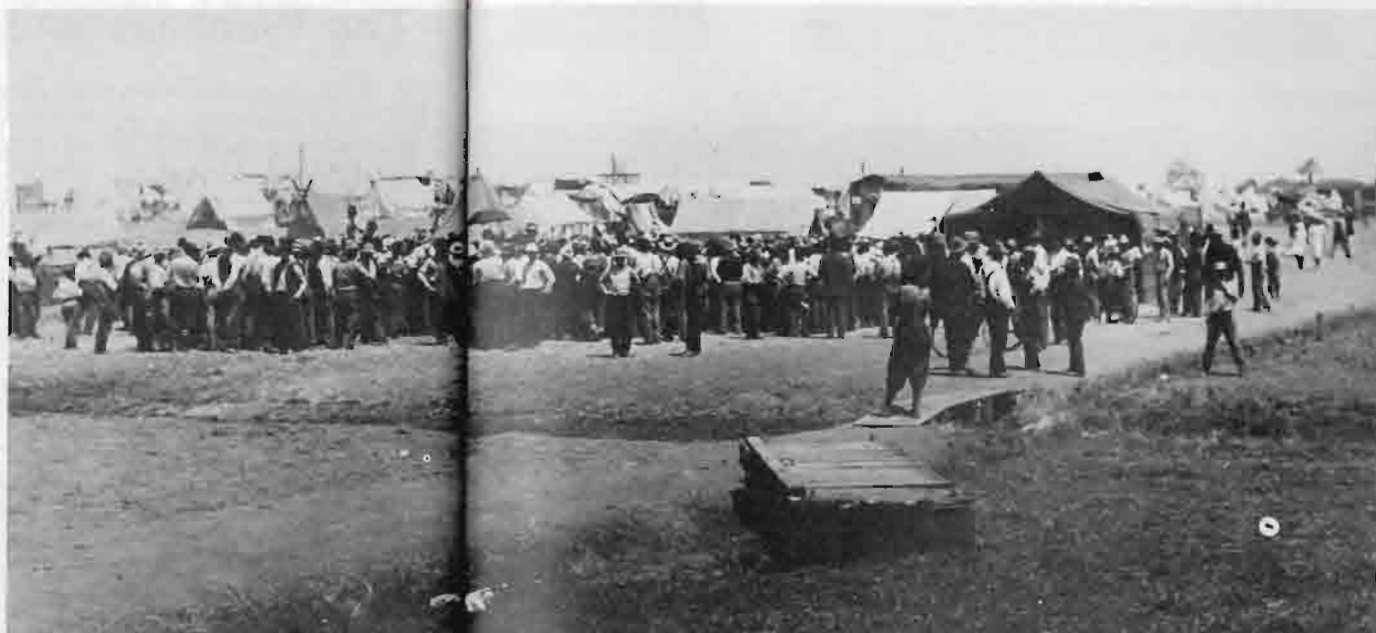
California and Nevada for 2,700 workers when he needed only 1,500 to harvest his crops. Soon over 2,800 workers streamed onto his ranch looking for jobs.

The extra workers, too poor to keep moving, stayed in a miserable labor camp owned by Durst. Many slept in the fields. They had to buy their food at the company store because Durst would not allow local stores to make deliveries at the camp. Workers were forced to buy lemonade from Durst's cousin because drinking water was not allowed in the fields. There were nine toilets for 2,800 people (1,500 were women and children). The stench and misery were terrible.

On August 3, 1913, the day of the riot, two IWW organizers called a mass meeting at the camp. When an organizer -- Blackie Ford -- held a sick baby and told the crowd, "it's for the kids that we are doing this," law officials interrupted the meeting. One officer fired a shot in the air -- "to quiet the mob," he said -- causing the people to panic.

A riot followed the shooting and afterward a district attorney, a deputy sheriff, and two workers lay dead. The National Guard was called in and all over California Wobblies were arrested. The two IWW organizers in Wheatland -- Ford and Herman Suhr -- were convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The only positive thing that came out of the riot was the widespread attention the tragedy received. "For the first time," historian Carey McWilliams wrote, "the people of California were made to realize, even if vaguely, the plight of its thousands of migratory workers...The deplorable conditions under which they lived and worked were also brought into light for the first time."



The grower advertised for more workers

than he needed.

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Workers met at E.B. Durst ranch in Wheatland, Calif: "It's for the kids that we are doing this."

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Sam Trickey
723 N.W. 19th St.
Gainesville, FL 32603

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