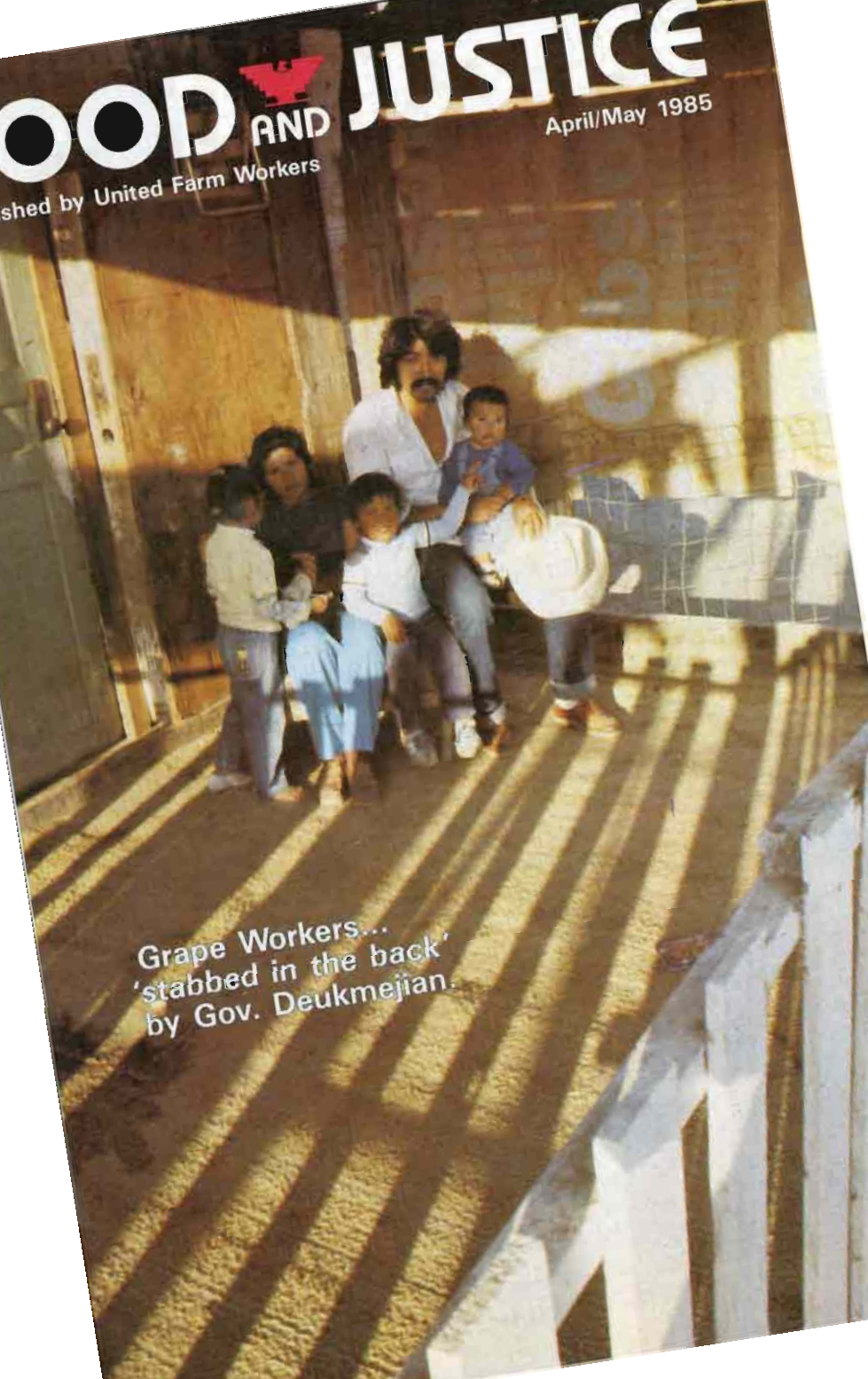


# FOOD AND JUSTICE

April/May 1985

Published by United Farm Workers



Grape Workers...  
'stabbed in the back'  
by Gov. Deukmejian.



What would you call a California politician who built his career as a "law-and-order" legislator?

We'd call him a smart politician!

What would you call a California politician who built his career as a "law-and-order" legislator and who promised -- as governor -- sure and swift justice for lawbreakers?

We'd call him a politician who knows how to get elected.

What would you call a California politician who built his career as a "law-and-order" legislator, who promised -- as governor -- sure and swift justice for lawbreakers, and who pledged to put crime victims' rights ahead of the right of criminals?

We'd call him a politician with his finger on the public pulse.

What would you call the same politician who coddles and protects corporate lawbreakers who financed his gubernatorial campaign? What would you call the same politician who ignores the pleas of innocent men and women who are victimized by agribusiness corporations that flout the 1975 state farm labor law?

We'd probably call him some of the same things you'd call him...but none of them would be a "law-and-order" politician.

Farm workers are boycotting California grapes\* because Governor George Deukmejian won't enforce the law against his political contributors. Won't you help? 🐦

\*except the 3% of grapes produced under UFW contract

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# Chavez Launches Salvo at Deukmejian During Grape Boycott Tour of Boston

Cesar Chavez spent a week in Boston assailing Gov. Deukmejian for using his control of the state farm labor board "as a dagger which he has thrust into the backs of the farm workers of California."

The United Farm Workers leader delivered his strongest attack yet on Deukmejian in a February 28 address before the prestigious Harvard Law School Forum. It was the last night of a successful tour to organize support for the UFW's new boycott of

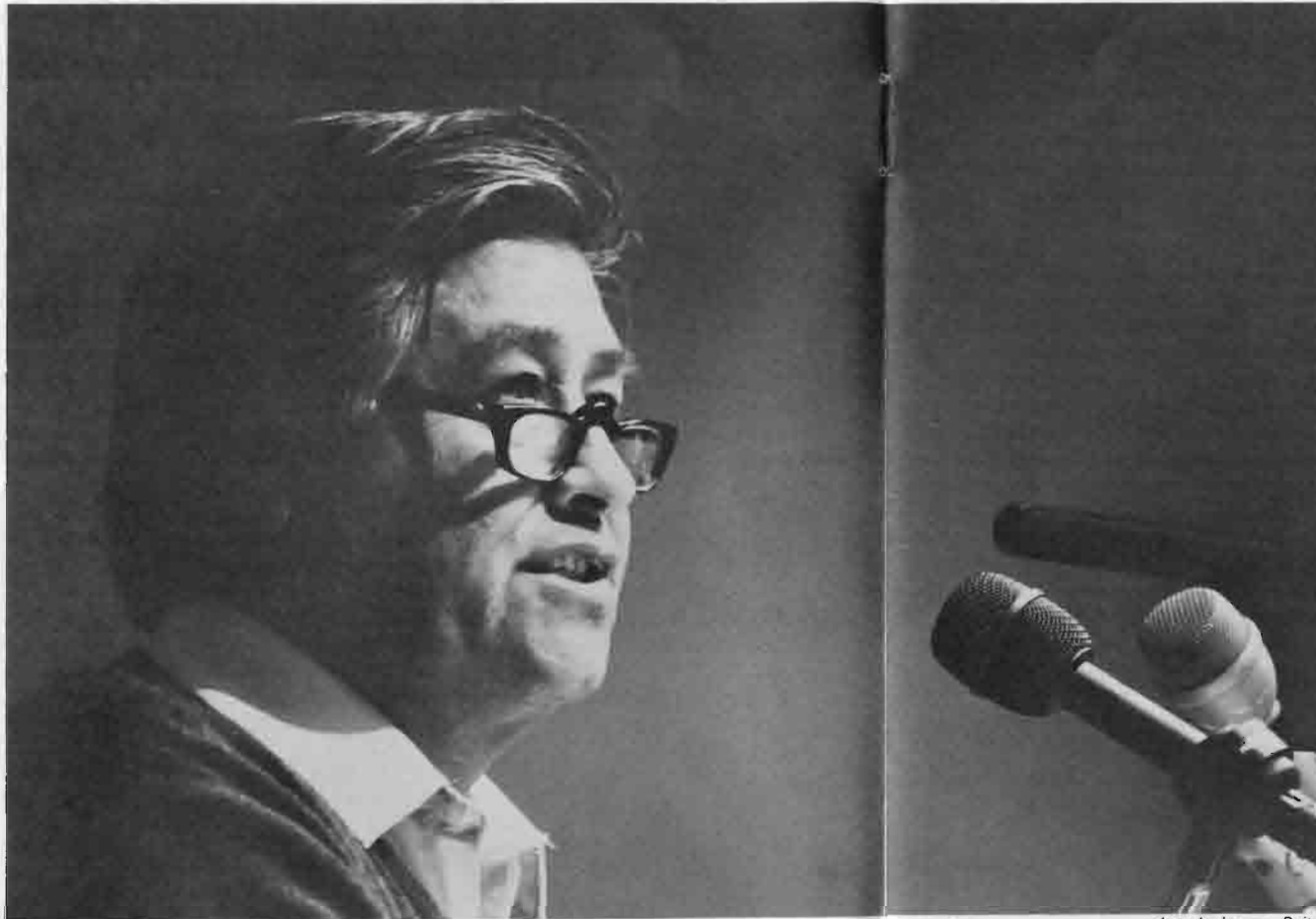
non-union California table grapes.

Bostonians furnished the most enthusiastic support for the grape boycott since it was announced last July 11. Chavez received formal endorsements for the boycott from Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn, the Massachusetts State Senate, the Boston City Council, and from hundreds of state and local labor and church leaders.

In a formal statement, Gov. Dukakis



With Mayor Raymond Flynn at his Boston City Hall office.



Cesar Chavez at Harvard: 'Deukmejian has thrust a dagger into the backs of farm workers.'

photo by Lorenzo Deitch

coupled his support for the boycott with criticism of Deukmejian's farm labor policies: "The law in California protecting farm workers as currently funded and administered has left thousands of farm workers with millions of dollars in back wages unpaid." He called on the citizens of the Commonwealth "to support the just demands of the farm workers in California through the endorsement of their...boycott."

A State Senate resolution stated

that "farm workers...are being systematically denied (their) rights by the grape farm owners...and by systematic avoidance of (enforcement) of California's farm labor law."

"Despite earlier successes in winning fair wages and decent working conditions for farm workers, (the Deukmejian) administration in California has ignored their rights," Massachusetts State Senator Jack H. Backman said.

### Urged Boycott Support

Boston Mayor Flynn urged "all of my fellow Bostonians to join with me in support of the United Farm Workers' grape boycott. (Deukmejian's) attitudes and budget cuts have rendered the Agricultural Labor Relations Act ineffective and unable to defend the rights of workers," the mayor proclaimed as he welcomed Chavez "on behalf of the people of Boston."

The Boston City Council also urged "all citizens of Boston" to support

the boycott because the California farm labor law has been "decimated through...an administration biased toward growers' interests."

Chavez told a packed audience of students at Harvard Law School that "instead of enforcing the law, Deukmejian manipulates the statistics. Instead of investigating the charges farm workers have filed, Deukmejian has fashioned those charges into a dagger which he has thrust into the backs of the farm workers of California."

The backstabbing accusation was made in response to a speech delivered by Deukmejian in Fresno on February 8 before the anti-farm worker Nisei Farmers League. There the governor claimed he had "nearly eliminated the backlog (of uninvestigated farm worker charges) we inherited, and Mr. Chavez doesn't like that either. Now he complains we're moving too fast."

In his speech, Chavez said the governor's appointees in the Agricultural Labor Relations Board have dismissed more than 403 farm worker charges since July 1984 "without investigating them and in violation of the internal procedures for dealing with cases" established by the Deukmejian Administration.

### Buoyed by Large Crowds

"This massive dismissal of charges was timed" so the governor could deliver his February 8 speech to the Nisei Farmers League claiming the backlog had been nearly eliminated," Chavez said. "Every day farm workers continue to be fired, coerced, and abused by corporate growers, many of whom have financed Gov. Deukmejian's political campaigns."

The farm labor leader also accused Deukmejian of:

- Conducting a systematic purge of ALRB staff who don't share the governor's pro-grower philosophy.
- Shutting down the process of

getting farm workers millions of dollars in back pay they are owed by their employers.

Settling cases where growers owe farm workers money for as little as 10¢ on the dollar in violation of state and national labor law precedent.

Providing lawyers for a major lettuce grower with unrestricted access to privileged files containing the names of workers who bore witness against the company in return for the promise of anonymity from state prosecutors.

Corporate growers gave Deukmejian more than \$1 million for his 1982 gubernatorial campaign. "Since he took office, Deukmejian has paid back his debt to the growers with the blood and sweat of California farm workers," Chavez declared.

The UFW president was buoyed by the large crowds which turned out at boycott functions and by the renewed enthusiasm shown by UFW supporters.

The Harvard students gave him standing ovations at the beginning and end of his remarks. More than 250 Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders attended an ecumenical breakfast at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. He also addressed the Massachusetts AFL-CIO executive board and local central labor council heads, and met separately with 100 labor leaders who are members of a Labor Support Committee backing the grape boycott.

In February the grape boycott received the official endorsement and sanction of the national AFL-CIO.

#### Polls Back Farm Workers

Before meeting with Gov. Dukakis, Chavez was the featured guest at a reception attended by lawmakers at the Massachusetts State House.

Chavez's 13- and 14-event-a-day schedule included numerous interviews with TV, radio and newspaper reporters, receptions and addresses at church services and college forums, and meetings with political, religious



photo by Tony Taro - Legislative Service Bureau

The featured guest at a reception sponsored by lawmakers at the Massachusetts State House. Left to right are Representatives Thomas Gallagher, Barbara Hildt, Byron Rushing, and Roberta Goldman.



photo by Lou Jones

Speaking with the New England Labor Support Committee on the grape boycott.

and community officials. He returned to California with thousands of grape boycott pledge cards filled out by UFW supporters at all of the events he attended.

The demonstration of support for the UFW's cause on the east coast was echoed by the release of a statewide California Poll last February that queried west coast residents about the farm workers' popularity.

The highly respected survey by Mervin Field revealed that 81% of Californians -- an extremely high figure -- could identify Cesar Chavez by name. Of them 22% were strongly favorable, 32% somewhat favorable, 11% somewhat unfavorable, and 17% strongly unfavorable. Chavez's total positive ranking of 53% was only four points below Ronald Reagan's positive score in the state.

The farm workers' leader finished in front of other well-known but controversial Californians such as former Gov. Jerry Brown and self-described tax crusader Howard Jarvis. One public relations expert who has worked on farm worker issues said

Chavez's rating in the California Poll "bodes well for the boycott."

Another Mervin Field-conducted poll taken in March also acted as a barometer of the UFW's popularity. It asked Californians to assess various interest groups which are politically active. Some 50% of those responding said "groups that favor farm workers" had a "good influence" while 28% said organizations like the UFW had a "bad influence."

Political observers noted that labor unions in general received a 36% "good" response and a 47% "bad" reply from the same sample of people. "That's unfair to organized labor," one observer said, "but the UFW's rating, compared to other groups, is very high."

Sr. Pat Drydyk and Buck Coe, both of the National Farm Worker Ministry, put together the advance and scheduling work on Chavez's intensive New England calendar. He was accompanied on the trip by UFW National Executive Board Member Art Rodriguez, who also heads the union's grape and tree fruit division. 🍇

## Remembering Nan Freeman-- Martyr for Farm Workers

Nan Freeman's life was brief but full of meaning. Nan was only 18 when she was killed on a United Farm Workers picketline in Florida on January 25, 1972. She was the UFW's first official martyr.

This year, Los Angeles Rabbi Sidney Jacobs, a long-time friend of the farm workers' cause, helped observe the 13th anniversary of her death with a commemorative service at La Paz. A rocky site near a mountain creek at the UFW's headquarters was dedicated and a Star of David, symbol of the Jewish faith, was erected in Nan's honor. Plans are to develop the site with alpine flowers and shrubbery as one of five memorials to the four men and one woman who gave their lives for farm workers.

As a high school and college student, Nan volunteered for a host of progressive causes, including the farm workers. She was one of the

first to respond when farm workers struck the Talisman Sugar Company near Belle Glade. On the day she died, Nan was helping pass out leaflets when a truck loaded with 70,000 pounds of sugar crushed her against a guard rail.

"To us Nan Freeman is 'kadosha' (the Jewish word for holy person), to be honored and remembered," Cesar Chavez said after her death. "She fulfilled the Biblical commandments by loving her neighbor even to the point of sacrificing her own life."

The UFW reveres four others as official martyrs: Nagi Daifallah, a young Yemenite worker killed in Lamont in 1973; Juan de la Cruz, shot to death on a picketline near Arvin two days later; Rufino Contreras, murdered at the Mario Saikhon Ranch near El Centro in 1979; and Rene Lopez, shot to death near Fresno in September 1983.



Cesar Chavez (center with arm raised) explains site of Nan Freeman memorial at La Paz.

## Deukmejian's Debt to the Growers

No California special interest has more influence with Republican Gov. George Deukmejian than the state's wealthy agricultural industry.

Deukmejian made changing enforcement of the state Agricultural Labor Relations Act a top campaign promise during his 1982 race for governor. Growers repented by pouring \$1 million into his campaign coffers.

The anti-farm worker Western Growers Association gave \$175,000 and California Farm Bureau Federation contributed \$15,000. California grape growers also helped underwrite the Deukmejian cause. Individual grape producers donated almost \$200,000. One Fresno grower, Richard Peters, contributed almost \$25,000. Other grape donations included Cal-Western of Visalia, \$16,000; Jack Pandol & Sons of Delano, \$13,000; Garabedian

Farms of Fresno, \$12,000; Howard Marguleas of Rancho Mirage, \$7,000; and E & J Gallo Vineyards Corp. of Modesto, \$5,000.

Deukmejian had barely taken the oath of office in January 1983 when he began paying back his debt to the growers. Later that month he named David Stirling, a former Republican assemblyman with an anti-farm worker voting record, as general counsel of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, which enforces the state farm labor law. Stirling has implemented Deukmejian's policy of nonenforcement of the 1975 farm worker statute. Last year the governor named Jyrl Ann James-Massengale as the ALRB's chairperson. Before her appointment Massengale represented growers for a notorious union-busting law firm. 🐦



Grape workers have been especially hard hit by Gov. Deukmejian's political alliance with corporate growers.

# Pesticides Which Cause Birth Defects And Kill Workers

*In this issue of Food and Justice Dr. Marion Moses, medical director of the National Farm Workers Health Group (the farm worker clinics) and a leading specialist in environmental disease, begins a series of articles on pesticides (see February issue).*

*In this first article, Dr. Moses presents basic information on pesticides. In coming issues, Dr. Moses will examine "The Deadly Dozen," 12 agricultural pesticides she believes should be banned from our fields, orchards and vineyards.*

Pesticides are toxic materials deliberately added to our environment. They are, by nature, poisons. Their purpose is to kill living things: insects (insecticides), plants (herbicides), molds (fungicides), rodents (rodenticides), birds (avicides), and worms (nematocides). Some four billion pounds of pesticides are used annually in the world; one billion pounds are dumped in the United States. Twenty percent of all pesticides in the U.S. -- and 5 percent of the world's pesticides -- are estimated to be used in California alone, mostly in agriculture.

Most pesticides applied to food crops have not been adequately tested to determine whether they cause cancer and birth defects or to determine if they affect genetic material or cause long-term chronic health problems. Also, animal tests on many pesticides were found to have been fraudulently conducted. It is unlikely that current levels of exposure to pesticides in the workplace and marketplace are "safe" as government regulatory agencies allege. And contrary to claims by the federal Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency these pesticide levels are neither scientifically determined nor adequately monitored or enforced.

Pesticides used in agriculture pollute the air and water, contaminate humans and animals, and are found in breast milk and tissues of new-born babies. Much ecological damage is caused by destroying honeybees and natural predators, killing massive quantities of fish, and contaminating ground water. The development of pesticide resistant pests require greater amounts of increasingly toxic chemicals, adding to the chaos.

Neither biological controls nor safer and more selective chemicals or alternatives to pesticides will be used or developed without pressure on major agricultural chemical producers. The large multinational corporations which produce most of the poisons must accept responsibility for the actual and potential harm their products do to workers, consumers and the environment. The burden should not be on us to prove that pesticides are harmful; it is the producers who should prove that they are safe!

However, we're living in a world of "pesticide junkies," particularly in agricultural regions. So we have chosen an initial "Deadly Dozen" chemicals which we feel agribusiness should begin the process of withdrawal from use. These chemicals have been



chosen on the basis of their unacceptable risk to public health. The first of them, the fumigant methyl bromide, will be discussed in detail in the next issue.

Since California's largest fruit crop is grapes, we have chosen it for our first profile. The following table shows that several pesticides are suspected or known causes of cancer or birth defects. Most of them are highly toxic. Farm workers have died from exposure to some of these poisons. Most can leave residues that may still be on the produce sold in supermarkets.

*A young girl uses a discarded pesticide can to harvest onions in the San Joaquin Valley.*



*Dr. Marion Moses*



### Selected Pesticides Used in Table Grape Production\*

Name of pesticide	Causes cancer in animals	Suspect cancer in animals	Animal cancer unresolved	Birth defects in animals	Very highly poisonous	Has caused worker deaths	Use
Avitrol				x			Avicide
Captan	x		x				Fungicide
Carbaryl (Sevin)							Insecticide
Carbofuran (Furadan)				x			Insecticide, Nematicide
Carbophenothion (Trithion)				x			Insecticide
Chloropicrin (Nitrochloroform)		x					Fumigant
Cryolite (Sodium aluminofluoride)							Insecticide
Dichloran (Botran, DCNA)	x						Fungicide
Dibrom (Naled)	x						Insecticide, Acaricide
Dichloropropene (DD, Telone)	x						Fumigant
Dicofol (Kelthane)	x		x				Acaricide
Dinoseb (Dinitrophenol)				x	x		Herbicide
Endosulfan (Thiodan)		x	?	x			Insecticide
Ethion							Insecticide, Acaricide
Fenamiphos (Nemacur)				x			Nematicide
Guthion (Azinphosmethyl)				x			Insecticide
Malathion					x		Insecticide
Methomyl (Lannate, Nudrin)				x	x		Insecticide
Methyl Bromide (Dowfume)	x			x	x		Fumigant
Parathion		x	x	x	x		Insecticide
Paraquat			x	x	x		Herbicide
Phosdrin (Mevinphos)				x	x		Insecticide
Phostoxin (Aluminum Phosphide)				x	x		Fumigant
Sodium Arsenite				x			Fungicide, Herbicide
Strychnine				x			Rodenticide
Systox (Demeton)			x	x			Insecticide, Acaricide
Zinc Phosphide				x			Rodenticide

\*based on use reports filed with California county agricultural commissioners

## The Giordanos: '...Starting Early And Never Giving Up'

It would take a book as long as *War and Peace* to chronicle the experiences and contributions for social justice achieved by Roy and Jeanne Giordano, both 67.

Fortunately for farm workers, the retired pair from California's Orange County championed the United Farm Workers' cause.

The Giordanos are the kind of couple you would expect to see posing for senior citizen brochures. Instead, they spend their time organizing support for the men, women, and children who harvest crops across America. For nearly 20 years they have been the mainstays of an organization with a long title: The Orange County Inter-Faith Committee to Aid Farm Workers. The group has a long history, too...a long and honored tradition.

Roy, a retired attorney, was brought up in a largely Spanish-speaking neighborhood in Wilmington, near Los Angeles. He read historian Cary McWilliams' books on farm labor and John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*.

"But the real clincher for both of us," Jeanne said, "was a small group meeting Roy and I attended in Huntington Beach in the late '60s. Cesar Chavez spoke to us about the grape strike and boycott in Delano, and that was it. The rest is history."

"The rest" was nearly 20 years of boycotting, picketing, publishing newsletters, arranging delegations to visit supermarkets, speaking at meetings, holding vigils, helping with marches, writing letters to legislators, petitioning religious leaders, working on election campaigns, housing and cooking for boycotters, and fund-



Roy and Jeanne Giordano with Cesar Chavez: mainstays in the oldest continuing UFW support group.

raising for the UFW.

Roy and Jeanne looked at each other and laughed as they recited the long list of things they did for the farm workers' movement in their Inter-Faith Committee. "It's been hectic but exciting," she said. "We wouldn't have missed a minute of it."

Roy maintained his Santa Ana law practice while he helped the UFW. He came to the rescue of boycotters and picketers several times. "We had

Boy's Market. The store paid a financial award and was forced to acknowledge the legal right of pickets to demonstrate in front of its premises.

The Sheriff's Department was found guilty of illegally arresting, searching, and imprisoning the five picketers without just cause. The total settlement for Boy's and the city was \$55,000.

"But that's not the best part of it," Giordano said. As a result of this case, and others, California Assemblywoman



*Showing the flag in Orange County.*

some real legal battles. Some store owners and even some police just couldn't get it into their heads that farm workers have legal rights, too." One Roy Giordano legal battle became a landmark case in 1980: Knox vs. the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

It involved five members of the Palos Verdes Unitarian-Universalist Church who were picketing a Boy's supermarket in Compton. The store manager secured a restraining order to have the pickets removed. Advised of their rights by Giordano, the church members refused. The manager called the police and they were arrested.

At the station, police searched the one man in the group with a brief body patdown. But the four women were strip-searched and their body cavities examined. "The women were horrified," Giordano said.

Giordano won a negotiated settlement of the women's case against

Maxine Waters introduced legislation outlawing such strip searches. It was passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Gov. Deukmejian. After considerable public pressure -- including a segment on CBS' 60 Minutes -- a similar bill was signed into law.

The Knox case attracted statewide and national attention. "We were getting calls from everywhere from attorneys handling similar cases. I had no idea abuse of women in police stations was so widespread," Giordano said.

The Giordano's Inter-Faith Committee is probably the oldest continuing UFW support group in the country. "Our longevity and success," Jeanne said, "are due to a wonderful core of dedicated supporters who started early in the farm worker struggle and kept right on working. They never give up."

That's the best way to describe Roy and Jeanne Giordano: They started early and never gave up. ♣

## The Boycott Needs You!



The farm workers are on the move. The Boycott of California table grapes\* is off the ground. Gov. Deukmejian won't succeed in crushing the farm workers.

The 17 million Americans who boycotted grapes during the 1970s are still there. People are responding in their churches and synagogues. On their college campuses. In their union halls. In their homes.

The boycott worked in the '60s and '70s because millions of good men and women made small sacrifices to help farm workers. Like not buying grapes. The farm workers need you now, more than ever. Boycott all California grapes unless you see the UFW's black eagle symbol on the boxes in supermarkets.

You can also assist the farm workers' Store Watch Program -- keeping a lookout in your area stores for boycotted products. Please fill out and return the coupon if you can help.

\*Grapes are not of grapes produced under UFW contract

Photo by Cathy Muehle

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

I want to help watch in my area stores for products boycotted by the UFW.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send information on the farm workers' cause to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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