

Boycott Report from Jim Drake/Mike Miller To Boycott Centers – January 28, 1966

From: Jim Drake/Mike Miller

Memo 1/28/66

Re: National of Schenley Liquors and Delano Grapes

To: Boycott Centers

- 1) The National Farm Workers Association is sad to announce the death of Mr. Roger Terronez, a charter member of the NFWA and a spark plug in the formation and effective extension of the NFWA credit union. Roger, 32, was currently coordinating the boycott efforts in San Francisco.
- 2) An increasing number of cities are responding to the appeal for support on the boycott. Add the following to the last list of boycott centers:

Trenton, N.J. – Gordon A. MacInnes, Jr., 602 Greenwood Ave., 509-695-5491

Syracuse, N.Y. – Robert Mason, 1438 E. Genesso St.

Providence, R.I. – Robert Mason, c/o R.I. Core, 191 Camp St.

St. Paul; Minn. – Tom Waite, 1077 Bradley St., zip 55101

San Diego, Calif. – Carlos Samarron, 3460 Ashford St., 92111 714-277-5850

Oakland, Calif. – Agricultural Labor Support Committee, 568 47th St., 655-3256

Milwaukee, Wisc. – Hank Werner, 826 N. 14th St., Apt. 404, 53233

Lafayette, Ind. – Henry Feldman, 120 Andrew Pl., West Lafayette

Houston, Texas – Pat Haneman, 1067 Thornton, 77018, OV 1-0498

Fremont, Calif. – Virginia Kiezel, 3554 Yorktown Rd. 656-8656

Concord, Calif. – Bill Smith, 4112 Wilson La. 682-8380

Cambridge, Mass. – Don Halfkenny, Quentin Bassett, 1785 Cambridge St.

- 3) Plans for expanding the boycott and accelerating activity include the following: NFWA representatives will be sent out from Delano, probably leaving Feb. 3, to those cities East of Delano where we presently have no NFWA staff on the scene. Cities affected will be contacted within several days. We hope you can help these people get situated and integrated into the activities already in progress. We think this will help your committees define the Delano issues, as well as provide full-time staff.
- 4) We are definitely getting through to Schenley. On January 24, a letter from the Western office of Schenley was mailed to Steve Allen, L.A. chairman of the boycott. The letter states, “the handbill bearing our name alleges that Schenley paid only \$1.20 per hour to its grape pickers in the 1965 picking season and that ‘they need \$1.40 per hour to live decently.’ This statement is false, and Schenley has been damaged by its assertion.”

The leaflet, by the way, does not assert that Schenley pays \$1.20/hour. For your leaflets, do not try to pin Schenley down to any minimum wage which they have been

paying. They pay by the PIECE RATE. That is, they pay so much for each gondola of grapes loaded. Thus, in the case of a superman, it is possible that he might make \$200/hour. But the average could not be near that, and in fact the men who struck did so because they were making too little when working at inhuman speeds.

- 5) The NFWA won an historic case against DiGiordio Fruit Corporation. We had been told through an injunction to cease picketing the docks and stopping the flow of grapes overseas. The higher courts overturned the injunctions saying: "There is nothing illegal about picketing."
- 6) There will be an announcement soon of a national B. S. (Boycott Schenley) Day. On this day we will try to coordinate one day of publicity which will turn attention toward Schenley. Soon after that there will be the kick-off of a pilgrimage "to see the boss" (president of Schenley Industries in NYC) by a bus load of workers and their families. This will not take place until careful planning has been made.