

Report To Church Leadership: Status of Delano Strike by Chris Hartmire

January 10, 1966

TO: Friends of the Grape Strikers

SUBJECT: Current Status of the Strike and Immediate Needs

Both unions are continuing their efforts in Delano. Picketing is aimed at scab pruners. NFWA volunteers in Texas have documented recruitment by Delano ranchers in Texas and Mexico. NFWA picketing is strong and is now entirely controlled by local farm workers; very few non-workers even appear on the picket lines. Negotiations are not in sight although efforts to bridge the communication gap continue.

To date, NFWA has received \$1,000 of the money pledged by Walter Reuther and the United Auto Workers (UAW). The pledge was \$5,000 each to AWOC and NFWA in December and \$2,500 to each group every month after that until the strike is won. However, with these funds, there is continued need to support the strike with dollars. For one thing, \$2,500 per month will not do the job. Funds are needed to pay rent and utilities for the strikers, to provide meals for pickets, (AWOC is now charging for meals at the Filipino Hall), to provide gas, oil and maintenance for the cars, to pay telephone bills, to support staff in Texas, New York, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco, printing costs, etc. It is also important that NFWA maintains independent support so it will be in a strong bargaining position with the labor movement if and when the labor movement gets more serious about farm workers.

Food continues to be an urgent need. There is an immediate need for flour (for tortillas), lard, coffee and pinto beans.

Clergy observers (with collars) are also needed. There is increasing police pressure on the NFWA and its key leaders. If you intend to come to Delano, call Jim Drake (725-0571 – area code 805).

Boycott activities continue and are being stepped up in California. The boycott of Schenley is crucially important to the effectiveness of the strike. If you need to make contact with boycott efforts contact one of the following: Mike Miller in San Francisco (MA 6-4577 – Code 415), Jim Drake in Delano (725-0751 – code 805).

In summary the needs are:

- 1) Money,
- 2) Food (especially flour, lard, coffee, pinto beans),
- 3) Clergy observers,
- 4) Support of boycott.

Warm thanks for all your help.

Your brother

Wayne C. Hartmire, Jr.