

Report from Chris Hartmire: How To Help Strikers

August 24, 1966

Dear Friends:

Many of you must feel cut-off from happenings in Delano. I hope the enclosure helps in that regard. The strike goes on against all the Delano grape growers except DiGiorgio and the Schenley Corp. The preparation for the DiGiorgio election goes forward at a feverish pace. The Schenley contract is in effect; a hiring hall is operating well; workers are earning more than ever before; just as important, their grievance committee has almost daily, equal contact with representatives of the company to settle problems that arise in the fields. No more humiliating accommodation to arbitrary and cruel treatment for these workers!

The urgent need now is for more food and more money. Despite the affiliation with the AFL-CIO, the NFWA is facing its most acute financial crisis. The election drive is very expensive and many bills cannot be paid. The striking farm workers have only one certain source of support: those of you who have stood with them from the beginning.

There is a special financial need this fall. Those families who work every day in the strike get their basic bills paid (rent, utilities, emergencies), receive food from the storeroom plus \$5.00 per week for miscellaneous needs. Other than old clothes that are donated, there has been no provision for shoes and other clothing needs. Four hundred (400) children of the strike return to school this fall. The NFWA would like to make \$15.00 per child available to families so they can buy some new shoes and new clothes.

Providing this kind of economic and personal security for our children is something we take for granted. This fact increases the pressure on those children whose families are struggling for economic survival. Can you help? The need is real and urgent. Try to send \$15.00 or more to the NFWA.

Other actions you can take:

- 1) Offer your services as a driver (with car) on the night of August 29 and/or the day of August 30. If you can help in this way write the Rev. Phil Farnham, Box 130, Delano, California.
- 2) Keep bringing food to Delano. We hope there will be a large influx of eligible voters, August 28-30. They will need food.
- 3) Write or telegraph Governor Brown urging him to arrange elections at the other Delano grape ranches and at DiGiorgio property in Arvin and Marysville.

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- 4) Write your Senators urging support for a strong minimum wage bill for farm workers. The House Bill (HR 13712) is very limited but the Senate is about to emasculate it. Communicate your interest in collective bargaining legislation to Senators and Congressmen.

It is easy to fall into the assumption that the struggle is over, but that is not so! Keep the strike in your thoughts and prayers. Farm workers continue to need your strong support.

Your brother,

Wayne C. Hartmire, Jr.

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