

**TAPE ARC - 5, TC 5:00:00**

**BITTER HARVEST - CHAVEZ FIGHTS ON**

CHAVEZ AT PRESS CONFERENCE:

5:02:26 CHAVEZ: We can no longer keep silent on the fact that we've known for several months, that a conspiracy exists between Governor Reagan, the United States Immigration Service and the California - Arizona Farm Labor Bureau, and the Delano growers, to break our strike.

REAGAN AT PRESS CONFERENCE:

5:02:50 REAGAN: There is no strike, and the grape boycott is a failure, and I think what we all have to keep in mind is, that the grape boycott's just the first domino in the whole series, if they should succeed with this illegal and this immoral maneuver, they then move through the agricultural community of California. And if they were really moving into an area where there was a humanitarian need, and they had to correct some evils, then we did they pick California?

CHAVEZ AT PRESS CONFERENCE:

5:03:15 CHAVEZ: Governor Reagan has unilaterally decertified 18 of the 24 pending strikes, and in so doing has made it legal for him to use the services of the Department of Employment to recruit strike breakers, and to send these strike breakers into the fields, where we're on strike. The Immigration Service has, since the beginning of the strike, not enforced the federal laws and regulations, and has permitted wetbacks and green card workers, commuters, to work as strike breakers.

CHAVEZ AT CONTRACT SIGNING:

5:05:57 CHAVEZ: Uh, we could say that, of course when a union comes to management for negotiations, that, uh, of course you're always asking as much as, or more than you hope to get. I think it is a fair contract.

5:06:13 GROWER: It will mean a substantial increase in our production costs, but we're satisfied with this agreement. It's marked the successful culmination of a series of pleasant negotiations. I'm looking forward to a continued successful relationship with the union.

## CHAVEZ SPEAKS AT A RALLY:

[NOTE: this very good and very long speech has been intercut in this film with substantial cutaways to the crowd at the rally, and to shots of workers in the fields.]

5:07:22      CHAVEZ: Muy buenos tardes companeros, brothers and sisters, it's very nice to be here, I'm very pleased with the turnout, I want to thank all of the people who sponsored this rally, the labor unions, the people in the church, the Chicano groups, the students...

5:08:29      CHAVEZ: ...brothers and sisters, I'm very pleased to be here. [here mostly voice-over on pics of workers in fields] As you'll recall, in 1965, in September, we went on strike in Delano. To really understand the magnitude of that act, we have to understand that for almost 80 years, farm workers have been trying to have a union. See, farm workers do not have a union today, it's not as if they didn't fight for one, but every single time they've tried to have a union, they've been beaten back. September of 1965, we went out, we said three things. Number one, there has to be a strike in order for farm worker men and women to build a union and make a better life for themselves. There has to be a boycott. We have to involve our friends around the country. We've got to go to the public and tell them what it is that we need, and get them to help us. And third, there's gotta be non-violence. And we pursued these three goals. And after 58 1/2 months, we were able to get the last of the growers to sign contracts, and we had 182 contracts signed, the very first time in history that farm workers have been able to have a union, to have a contract, they were on their way. And for three years we worked with the workers, established the offices, and began to deal with administering the contract, servicing the workers, and having an office. And for the first time, we're bringing major decency, justice, some sort of order and regulations to the hiring and firing of farm workers. And we're very proud of that.

## CHAVEZ AT RALLY:

5:11:26      CHAVEZ: As you'll recall, a few days after the November election, there was an article in the Los Angeles Times, that there'd been a meeting with Fitzsimmons, the head of the Teamster Union and with high officials of the American Farm Bureau Federation. You'll recall that a few days later a convention was held by the, National Convention was held in Los Angeles, and the guest speaker was Fitzsimmons, came to speak to them. You'll also recall that a guy named Charles Colson, who was President Nixon's counsel, arranged a

meeting with the Farm Bureau and the Teamsters, and it was at their invitation that they got together and got the Teamsters to speak to the Farm Bureau....

5:12:13 ...It was at that meeting, during that period, that a deal was made, between the Teamsters and the Farm Bureau Federation of Growers, and with the Nixon Administration playing a very supportive role, and we started negotiating in January. We found out later, after they signed with the Teamsters, that we were negotiating with them in one room and they were taking their breaks and coffee to go and iron out some of the difficulties we were having in negotiations, but they were going to the back room, and the Teamsters organizers were in that back room telling them "We can give you a better deal on this than the Farm Workers." They were negotiating with both of us at the same time. And so 9 hours after the contracts expired, 9 hours to the moment, there was an announcement made by the Teamsters and the growers that they now had contracts with the Teamsters. The same day we put out the picket lines and began picketing them....

5:13:09 ...Two hours later, by 11:00, we had been served with injunctions limiting our picketing to one picket every hundred feet. It was a total uh, halting the strike by court action.

#### RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT., POLICE OFFICER GIVES ORDERS TO MEN:

5:13:30 Well, we've got an order here, we just got last night, and they were supposedly served yesterday afternoon by the attorneys. [Officer from group asks question] At the end of this block which is 0700, it starts at 0500...

#### CHAVEZ SPEAKS TO A REPORTER ON PICKET LINE IN COACHELLA:

5:20:37 CHAVEZ: The only way they can break the strike is by importing illegals, if they bring illegals from Mexico they can break the strike, otherwise they can't do it. [REPORTER: They're planning on that...] Sure, they're planning on that, they already have, they already have some here.

#### STRIKER TALKS ABOUT A MEXICAN WORKER WHO HAD JOINED THE STRIKE:

5:21:00 STRIKER: (Part question in Spanish to worker, translates for camera)Uh, Alfredo Castillo, he was working this morning at uh, at Botic's, Mike Botic's vineyards this morning. Uh, he's from Mexico, Mexicali, across the

border...he's a Mexican citizen... An uncle told me that there was plenty of work here, words going all around in Mexicali that there was plenty of work in this vineyard here, there's plenty work for everybody so come on over, and that's one of the reasons he came over...what he says is that when he went, when he started working this morning, the foreman started hurrying him up to work a little faster, and told him the deal was, not a plaything, that he was not supposed to be playing here, he should be working.

END OF PART ONE OF "BITTER HARVEST"

[Part Two on ARC - 6]