

TAPE ARC - 6, TC 6:00:00

BITTER HARVEST (PART TWO)

MURRAY WESTGATE, PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT TO THE TEAMSTER, speaks to reported at strike picket line.

6:00:46 WESTGATE: The whole problem with this thing is that no one really understands that there isn't any strike. But this is a great power of visual protest, of visual non-violent protest. It looks like it is occurring, it may be occurring in the public mind by a picture without any words, or it may be that somebody says well, we're interested in getting in the fields. But, people are working in the fields, with the Teamsters Union contracts, which have been approved, which are here which exist. And they're not on strike. They're going to work everyday. And these Teamsters which you see here in these cars, these fellows here, they are fellows who are members of Teamsters Unions all over the country, protecting their own members, and they're making sure that these people do not pull any violence, or any attacks on the people in the field who are working under contracts.

TEAMSTER ORGANIZER TALKS WITH WORKER IN FIELD:

6:01:46 TEAMSTER: My name is Domingo, and I'm an organizer for the Teamster's Union, we'd like to ask you a few questions. Uh, how do you like working under the Teamster contract?

6:01:51 WORKER: Well, I don't know yet, we just started. [TEAMSTER: You weren't working here?] Yes, I been working here but I don't know, if uh, about this union or not, you know, we haven't tried it. [TEAMSTER: It's new to you. How do you like working under Chavez's union?] Oh, I worked already two or three years with him. I've had trouble with him. [TEAMSTER: What kind of trouble?] Well, uh, dues, back dues and all of that stuff, had to pay back dues. [TEAMSTER: Did you have any trouble getting...] Dispenses, you know and all of that stuff, sometimes. [TEAMSTER: How do you feel about the people that are out there, screamin' and hollerin'?] Well, I don't know, I was out there for two days myself too. It started, well I thought they were gonna win, you know when it started. I said to myself, this thing's goin' to be, take too long, I can't. [TEAMSTER: They're not making any money out there?] No, not when I was out there.

TEAMSTER UNION P.R.O. talks to reporter:

6:03:09 P.R.O: There's no sweethearts, between management and any union, particularly the Teamsters and the growers, but it's just a question of uh, a common enemy in this.

JAMES B. STRONG, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, talks to interviewer:

6:03:21 INTERVIEWER: Have you talked to the growers at all? What is their point of view on the contract?

6:03:27 STRONG: Well they didn't want either union. They didn't want either union, but uh, from what I've seen, but they would prefer, Mike Botic, (??),

he said he'd prefer the Teamsters, which would make since. [OFF CAMERA VOICE: The Teamsters are noted for one thing, it's driving a hard bargain] Yes.

6:03:59 WESTGATE: The Teamsters cooperated with the United Farm Workers when they first started out, it was a social clause, but what happened was, they got into this jurisdictional hassle, of who was actually going to have these farm workers. Now it ended up in this situation, that the Teamsters had a better situation for the farm workers than UFWOC here in this area. That's why they have now 30 contracts, compared to two.

6:04:23 P.R.O.: It's similar, you know, issues, in all the areas. It's ironic also that the Teamsters end up, either by accident or design, providing the respectability and dignity and good circumstances for the Mexican-American worker that Cesar claimed to be out to get when he started.

TEAMSTER UNION REPRESENTATIVE speaking to workers:

6:04:43 TEAMSTER REP: Now I'm gonna explain the contract in English and in Spanish. I'm gonna explain the benefits of the contract, because we want everyone to be well informed. There's nothing better than a well informed member. Representation: you will have a representative of the union come out to the field once a week. He's gonna be your representative. If you have a problem, a grievance, you uh, you're not being treated right, you let him know, and he'll get the company straightened out. Because we have it under the contract, representation for the people, visitation rights and what have you.

6:05:52 REP: They've had these couches for about 3 -4 years...what we're gonna do is we're gonna call the Health Department to come and check the...they claim that they have 40, 40 males taking a shower and one shower for 40 people...two toilets for 40...O.K., we'll send the Health Department down here and we'll get them on the ball. First I'm gonna talk to the company to get new couches, fix the toilets, and get some new showers in there, and after, get the camp fixed up.

CHAVEZ SPEAKING TO ORGANIZERS AT LA PAZ:

6:08:17 CHAVEZ: Being in La Paz, uh, is so different from being out in the field, out in Coachella and out in those areas. Here if we're not careful, we can get into a rut, at least, you know, but if we're not careful we can begin to misunderstand and mismanage the, the whole idea of the trust that we have, that the workers have given us to sort of, lead and direct and administer, and grapple with the problems that have to be dealt with. And I very sincerely hope that some day we can, we can have things in such a way that everybody in La Paz can go out and work with the workers, be there and touch, touch uh, shoulders with them, you know, let their flesh touch yours, let their spirit sort of, be part of you, and let their complaints and their praises be uh, part of your life, because...

6:09:20 [CHAVEZ continues speaking, cutaway to picket line] ...it's fantastic the, the exhilaration, this feeling that people, in which the worker understands his responsibility, it's really fantastic. I would say it's the best education, is the picket line, for anyone.

PAUL HALL, PRESIDENT OF THE SEAMEN'S UNION AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE AFL - CIO speaks with a reporter:

6:09:58 HALL: We wish the workers well, they're a great people, and it's terrible that they have to be plagued with this kind of a problem, but we look forward to a victory for them. REPORTER: Have you been out in the fields yet, since you've been here, I know that you've just arrived? HALL: Yes, yes I have, I would say that the moral is certainly good, and the strike seems to be effective, and I would certainly look for things to tighten up....Well along with the temperature and this action, I would think that the employers are going to have a very hot time.

STATE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE TAKES EVIDENCE ON LABOR RELATIONS, BAKERSFIELD, CALIF, JUNE 1973:

6:10:39 SENATOR: The purpose of the committee is to delve into the problems of labor disputes as it relates to agriculture, on a statewide basis. This committee in no way is set up to pre-judge the situation, but rather to determine if the current laws are effective, if not, then whether remedial legislation is in order.

JERRY COHEN: COUNSEL FOR THE UFW testifies before subcommittee:

6:11:03 COHEN: Over the course of the past five years, the Farm Workers Union has struck well over a hundred times in various areas of the state, and, in almost each instance the courts have used their injunctive powers to break the back of the strike by enclosing mathematical straight-jackets on our picket lines. The workers come out of the fields and they picket and uh, from time to time injunctions are issued which limit the pickets to one every hundred feet, one every

200 feet, one every 300 feet. No judge has ever visited the field to take a look at the impact of his injunction on a picket line, with the exception of Judge Metheny, in Riverside County, and he thought that numbers limitation after making a personal inspection was ridiculous, and so he allowed us an unlimited number of peaceful pickets on the other side of the street from the fields and that's working out very well....

6:11:58 ...We have basically three problems currently that face the union that are very vital problems in terms of funneling the workers' energies from the organizational activities to a battle with uh, with local law enforcement, which is really not what we are in business to do. We are not a civil rights organization, we're a labor organization, and we want to organize workers. Now in Kern County, at John Popovic's (??) ranch, a strike has been going on for approximately 5 weeks. The court here issued an order, without notice to us, restraining picketing. And the order was void, pickets were arrested under the order. I have pictures here that I'll submit to the committee of the sheriff's department arresting our pickets. As the pictures show, pickets are peacefully walking to their cars. They're being arrested for being within 60 feet of the field after an injunction was issued ex parte. I know there's some provision in the bill, and it would solve this very clearly, maybe the District Attorney of Kern County doesn't think the Constitution applies here, but I think that statute would speak very clearly to him. And I think we need a consistent law enforcement policy all across the state....

6:13:07 P.R.BORTON, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE: Gentlemen, I'm not here advocating anything, so I'm not going to give you prepared statements on either side of the issue. My position is simply as a judicial officer of the state, and

I must enforce the laws of the state. [Question: Did you visit the fields before you issued the injunction?] No, I did not. I don't think that it's my function to try to be a witness in a lawsuit. It destroys my, uh, ability to be objective. Otherwise, if I go out and witness something, I am biased.

6:13:44 SENATOR: Well, it would appear to me that if you just made a uh, attempt to visit the field without prior notice to either participant, then maybe you can get a uh, a uh, maybe an effective viewpoint.

6:14:01 BORTON: Well, I don't agree with that. Uh, I think the judge that goes out and decides a case from what he sees, without either side having the right to cross-examine the judge, would make a mockery of our judicial system.

6:14:18 CHARLES A. DODGE, SHERIFF, KERN COUNTY: Law enforcement people, as you know, are always in the middle, especially in this type of a strike as we have here. And this is not unique. Labor controversies are trouble for law enforcement people, because we're the man in the middle that tries to protect everyone's rights, both the property owner, the management, and in this particular case, the rights of two particular unions. When Giumarra Vineyards was struck out here, before they signed contracts with the union, uh, out there at the railroad tracks, on Edison Hwy, they amassed a hundred or more pickets, right there at a very small entrance, and a very dangerous place, where the Santa Fe trains roll through there about 60 miles an hour, those big freight trains, and diesel engines, it's very dangerous that a truck gets held up there on that crossing of multiple tracks across there. And here's a whole mass of pickets out there on that line, waving their flags, their banners, their sticks, and tapping on windshields and distracting the drivers and so forth. Some order has to me maintained in this type

of a situation. And the more people you have there, the more pickets, if you have hundreds of them on a particular little crossing like that, you've got to have a lot of law enforcement people out there, which is a drain upon the law enforcement budget and the manpower of this county.

CESAR CHAVEZ SPEAKS AT A BENEFIT GIVEN BY UAW:

6:16:50 CHAVEZ: Thank you very much Brother Chambers, brothers and sisters, we're very, very proud to be here at 1364, uh, happy and proud because it shows us that the UAW, and Local 1364, as well as the other locals are not asleep, that you, over here at your union, you could very well be saying, it's not our problem, and be staying home and doing what you do. But to us, to have you go to extra work, to extra expense to call us here to get your brothers and sisters so we can speak to you, so we ask you to continue giving your help to us, it's very important....

6:17:43 ...When we started the fight in 1965, in September, we were alone, we were an independent union, we were not affiliated, we didn't have any money. We didn't have any uh, we had no resources. The only thing that we had was an idea, and an ideal. We thought that it could be done. And we started out to work, and you know, of all the unions in the country, the first union that came to our aid was your union. The great Walter Reuther came to Delano. But we were independent. We had an injunction. The cops said told us if you picket, we'll send you to jail, even though the railroad yard goes right by the city. And we couldn't picket the railroad cars when the train was being shipped out. So when Walter Reuther came, I said, look, we can't picket here because if we do we'll go to jail. He said, fine, let's go to jail together. He picked up a picket sign and the chief of

police...(APPLAUSE)...and the chief of police came up, ready to make the arrest, and when he got up to Walter ready to make the arrest, he said “My name’s Walter Reuther,” he did a double take, and said, “well I don’t think I could arrest you.” And so, that day was the beginning....

6:19:02 ...Next day we got people out into the fields and they said if Walter Reuther is with you, we can win. And let me tell you brothers and sisters, to us, it was one of the most dramatic moments in the history of this union. And with that man, we love, we cherish, and we’ll always will keep in the memory, he was the beginning of an awful lot of help from an awful lot of unions....

6:19:30 ...You know what the Teamsters were saying the other day? They said, you know, one of the things about the farm workers, when we take the farm workers on, in the fight, we always lose, because we don’t only take the farm worker himself, we take the farm worker, we gotta fight the wife, we gotta fight the kid, we gotta fight the grandmother, and the grandfather, and...(APPLAUSE)

6:20:00 ...But see, we’re not really afraid of them, because to them, if they lose in Coachella, they won’t lose anything, cause they still have a union. To us, if we lose Coachella, if we were to lose there, and God forbid that we do, but if we were to lose in Coachella it would be the end of our movement and our union. And we can’t afford to do that. So we’re going to struggle. We’re going to do it non-violently. We’re going to do it with every ounce of strength in our soul. We’re going to win, because, you see, those workers, as you, you have the right to have your union.

END OF PART TWO

BITTER HARVEST, PART THREE

CESAR CHAVEZ TALKS WITH ART TORRES, in backyard:

6:21:33 TORRES: There are a lot of bills that are being introduced against us, as usual. On the Assembly side, Bob Wood has introduced a spot (??) bill, which he hasn't amended yet, so I don't know what the chances are of getting that out. And uh, the other major legislation that's up, that we're supporting is Roberti's bill, the one they had the hearings on in Bakersfield. And that bill is going to uh, is causing us some problems because the state senate has 20 Republicans and 20 Democrats, there's a tie. Which means that the Democrats compromise by having the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is one of the most important committees in the legislature, to have 7 Republicans and 6 Democrats. So in order to get any good legislation out you have to convince one of the Republicans. Well all of the Republicans who sit on that Senate Judiciary Committee are very hard to convince. Because, number one you have Biddle from Riverside County, which we could never get to. Lagar Marcino [CESAR: no...] from Ventura, never get to...Marder, [no...no] from Sacramento, never get to, uh, Bradley, from San Jose [CESAR: oosh, Bradley, the worst of all] the worst of all, right we could never get to. So the only two that are left are Grunsky and Stevens from [CESAR: We've been able to get Grunsky occasionally] ...on occasion, he's supported the UI Bill, so what I did was, Bill Carter's scheduled some visits to Grunsky this past weekend, I talked to uh, Jack Henning who gave me the numbers for the Santa Cruz County AFL - CIO. Apparently they endorsed Grunsky in the last election, AFL - CIO did, so maybe that might be the leverage to get at him. All we need is just one Republican, and uh, the Democrat that's hardest one to get is Homedall, from Alameda County.

Homedall is the one Democrat from Oakland, who doesn't respond to uh, to uh, community pressure, he only responds to people who donate to his campaign, and apparently the United Auto Workers have supported Homedall in the past, and maybe that's one way to convince him this is a good piece of legislation.

6:23:45 CESAR: Let's make a note of this. We should put a bill maybe that would set the limits on on contamination, see, so the agricultural inspector would inspect the fruits and the vegetables, and whenever they're over a certain limit, they couldn't be sold in the stores [loud cars/planes] We get this one through, we might be able to educate...

6:24:09 TORRES: That's the next step. Because Jerry and I had discussed it, and what we had discussed was to just outlaw reconditioning period. In other words, any product that's been over, that's been sprayed over with pesticides should not be reconditioned, it should just be destroyed.

UFW LEGAL AID (??) TALKS WITH CESAR:

6:25:09 AID: This is the Tenneco corporate structure, these are really big guys, the biggest one that we deal with. [CESAR: Yeah...] Bigger than United Brands, bigger than anybody else. And that just gives an idea of how all of his subsidiaries fit together. He has uh, the parent company is called Tenneco Inc., and these are the officers and how much money they make...Tenneco Inc, is the parent company [CESAR: Yeah, where's the agricultural company?] Now underneath that, the second level, are three subsidiaries, Tenneco Corporation, a holding company, and then Tenneco Gas Transmission, and things related to manufacturing. On the third level is Tenneco Properties, he's got six other things

here, and then (??) Tenneco is at the fourth level in the corporate level, this is a subsidiary of Tenneco Properties...[CESAR: Agricultural and Land Development] that's one of his six operating groups...

CESAR SPEAKS TO FULL TIME BOYCOTT WORKERS IN SAN JOSE:

6:27:51 CESAR: The um, as far as the workers and the people in the union, especially those who have been in the union a longer time, uh, are very pleased with all of you, with your sacrifices and with your commitment and uh, the officers and myself, we know that if things come to a, if things were to work out real badly for us in Coachella, we'd still have a boycott. So, it's a great source of strength to know that uh, that if you miss with one, you still have the other. One of the great things that is happening is that we have to go and get the people out on strike, a lot of the people have never been on strike, they're members of the union, didn't know anything about the union because people, workers don't learn unless they're sacrificing. The union means an entirely different things than it meant two months ago. They had a lot of, uh, there were a lot of uh, confusions, uh, there were a lot of things that were not clear to them, because when you explain the union to a worker, who's not fighting for a union, who's never fought for the union, it's difficult for him to understand, when he has to fight for his union, from there comes a lot of problems. So many issues are raised and other things, keeps the real issue from ever surfacing, which is a class issue, as I see it. So what's happening here?

6:29:20 VOLUNTEER: We're kinda you know in the last month, we've changed up here, in hitting far fewer stores than we were hitting before, but the stores that we're hitting we're really devastating, we're really doing a job on.

We're picketing a store in Saratoga, which isn't, we didn't think would be the most sympathetic area, but it's, it's dynamite, I mean it was a \$120,000. store, I'm sure it's half that now. We've talked to the manager's wife, and she's sympathetic, but her husband comes home every night and he's mad, and Safeway's starting to put the screws on him because the goods aren't moving and he's worried about his career and everything, and five clerks got laid off, or got transferred at that store, and uh, car-boys have had their hours cut.

6:30:19 CESAR: Just imagine Safeway with all this pressure, and they come to us, and of course, we're not going to stop. Where do you think they go next? They go to the growers. They call the growers every day and they say, we've got to work this out, I mean, we're friends and all, but why should I be paying for you? And what do you think the growers doing? They're saying, hey Teamster brothers, you told us there wouldn't be any strikes and boycotts, now stop them. What do you think the Teamsters' doing? He's saying, well give me a couple of weeks, we'll get this thing straightened out.

CESAR SPEAKS AT AN OUTSIDE RALLY:

6:37:37 CESAR: The whole idea of the union, it's not only the union, but it represents, together with you and me, all our brothers, Chicano and white and black and everything, represents an idea that poor people can get together and win. Because they, if we build a union in agriculture today, the balance of power is going to turn around, because, in the rural areas, the growers have undisputed power, and the fight is to keep the workers from organizing so they could equal that. If we could organize the workers, without interruptions from the Teamsters Union, I bet you in 5, 6 years, we will be electing state legislators from the rural

area, we'll be electing judges, we'll be electing city councilmen, and those workers will be taking hold of governmental agencies through their organization. That's the fight. [applause] Because the moment the worker gets a union and feels secure with his job and his income, what is the next step that he thinks of? Automatically he thinks about politics. When we signed the first contract in Delano 3 years ago, the following six months, before then I don't remember a farm worker ever running for any office. In the period from July of 1970, through January of 1971, over 60 farm workers ran for different offices. School board and water board, they had their own fights going trying to take control of those uh, they have the right to, they have the vote. And see, so it doesn't stop with the union, it goes on a step further. We'd like to have some Chicano farm worker, and other farm worker, black and Filipino, judges. I'd like to come before a Filipino judge, farm worker, if I have to come before one you know.

BITTER HARVEST END

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MAURICE HATTON.

