

TAPE ARC - 9, TC 1:00:00

ABC NEWS REEL 201: "CESAR CHAVEZ STORIES"

CESAR CHAVEZ, SILENT, DURING A FAST, AT NIGHT, OUTSIDE KERN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ORGANIZER speaks with reporter:

1:04:39 REPORTER: What did you give him to drink?

1:04:45 ORGANIZER: Just water. He's had nothing but water for, this is the thirteenth day.

1:04:51 REPORTER: What did he say to you just a second ago when he spoke?

1:04:53 ORGANIZER: He said he would like to rest for a moment.

1:04:59 REPORTER: Can he say anything to us?

1:05:02 ORGANIZER: No I don't, he would rather not. Not just because of his exhaustion, but consistent with his fast, he wants to remain as quiet as, in addition to his exhaustion.

1:05:22 REPORTER: Why is he fasting, does it have to do with this contempt of court case?

1:05:28 ORGANIZER: And most particularly at this time, interested in focusing that kind of attention where his own membership is concerned. Because the actions of this corporation have been so provocative and so vicious that it is not difficult for a person to anticipate that someplace along the line some of the members might want to retaliate, and he doesn't want that to ever happen.

1:05:58 REPORTER: Who is the woman sitting there?

1:05:59 ORGANIZER: Mrs. Chavez, his wife.

GEORGE MEANY, speaking at press conference:

1:13:54 MEANY: ...April 30th and today has gone from \$2.73 to \$2.85 a ton. So the total increase from April 17th, 1972, right to today, less than 13 months has been from \$95. a ton to \$2.85 a ton. Now you apply a 5 1/2% to that and you'll find its a little more than 5 1/2%.

1:14:19 REPORTER: Mr. Meany, did the Council do anything today vis a vis Mr. Chavez, the Farm Workers, and the Teamsters?

1:14:25 MEANY: The Council voted in the next three months to give Mr. Chavez, \$1,600,000. To try to help him conduct an effective strike against the most vicious, strike-breaking, union-busting effort that I've seen in my lifetime on the part of the Teamsters. And we're going to do that in the next 3 months, and we're going to try to do anything that's necessary to keep that union alive. And in

keeping the union alive, we're trying to keep the farm worker alive, it isn't the union, it's the actual farm workers. What the Teamsters have done through these, through these new contracts they've signed, they've brought back the so-called labor contractor. Now the labor contractor is a fellow who contracts for the labor, meets these people early in the morning, puts them in a carrier or truck, and delivers them to the employer. It's a throwback to the pedrone system that we eliminated, or thought we eliminated in this country 75 years ago. It means that these people are actual slaves to the labor contractor. The Chavez contracts which had expired in April, had eliminated the labor contractor, and substituted a hiring hall. That is all out the window with the Teamsters sweetheart contracts with these growers. So we're going to fight not for Chavez, not for the union really, but for the workers in the field.

1:16:02 REPORTER: Mr. Meany, that's really strong language against the Teamsters and indirectly against the... [MEANY: I'm sorry I can't make it stronger, I don't have the vocabulary.] ...what I'm asking is, you serve on the Labor Management Committee, with Mr. Fitzsimmons, is this going to affect your relationship with him?

1:16:15 MEANY: I'll try to seat myself a little further away from him.

1:16:21 REPORTER: What is the money going to be used for, Mr. Meany?

1:16:25 MEANY: It's going to be used to help these people live. You see, these people that are in here, they're under duress, they haven't worked since December, season is just starting out there, and they're facing starvation. And we

want, we want to try to help them live, outside the fields... it's for the strikers, that's all it's for, it's for nobody else.

1:16:52 REPORTER: Mr. Meany, uh, the statement on wages, prices and profits, the administration cannot reasonably expect a trade union union movement to counsel moderation on wage increases. What would your counsel be for those...

1:17:10 MEANY: Under the AFL - CIO structure we do not tell unions what they will bargain for, that's their own business and we have nothing to do with it. We're expected to counsel moderation. Now where there's equity we would certainly consider counseling moderation, but where there is no equity, we've just got to let the chips fall where they may, we've just got to let the workers and the unions decide for themselves.

CESAR CHAVEZ, speaking to reporters:

1:18:28 ...the growers went in to let the Teamsters in, to sort of use them as a way of trying to knock us out of the picture...

TEAMSTER LEADER:

1:19:26 We aren't too interested in his charges really, we're going to concentrate on servicing our membership out in the field, and uh we think those are the people who are going to make the decision, those are the people who vote out in the field.

GROWER, in field:

1:21:00 I think that they would prefer it because it's been an indication in the past that that's what the workers would prefer, they were dissatisfied with the Cesar Chavez union, and it's at least the belief of the growers that they don't want that union, and we'll find out once we have an election.

CESAR CHAVEZ:

1:21:25 The future, once these elections are over, the future for the worker looks pretty bright. I think it's going to be from now on a very accelerated pace, workers are going to organize by the thousands, and probably use California as a base to organize throughout the United States.

TEAMSTER LEADER:

1:21:49 We have the contracts, he doesn't. Any contract he has in agriculture, we'll set ours up a side of his, and make an honest comparison with anyone that wants to look at them.