

TAPE ARC - 22; TC 13:00:00

KRON REEL 1

April 1966, S.F., ROBERT DIGIORGIO press conference [great B&W]:

13:00:10 DIGIORGIO: If the unions agree to our proposals, DiGiorgio will agree to the following: One, if any union wins any of the elections held, we will recognize it as the representative of our employees at that facility. Two, we will then immediately commence negotiations to reach a collective bargaining agreement, put it in writing and execute it. Three, if after 30 days of collective bargaining, no agreement is reached, the unresolved issues will be submitted to an impartial board of arbitration. And the decision of the arbitrators will be final and binding upon both the union and DiGiorgio. The eligibility of voters will be determined by the rules applicable to elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board. Any agreement reached by collective bargaining or through arbitration as described above will contain provision forbidding strike, boycott, slowdown or lockout during the harvest seasons. And if future impasses occur during negotiations, they will be resolved by the arbitration board rather than by economic pressures.

13:01:36 UFW ATTORNEY: I agree with Mr. DiGiorgio that the idea of uh, compulsory arbitration on a collective bargaining agreement is totally unique in the American labor movement. Uh, now there's been many unique things about this strike. Uh, I would personally question whether this one more bit of uniqueness is

necessary or would be advisable, but again, this is purely my personal opinion. I would certainly think that the rest of the American labor union would uh, look askance at any union that did accept such a proposal.

13:02:17 UFW ORGANIZER: As far as uh, claiming that we represent his employees, presently on the farms, we don't represent those employees because they're strike breakers. And uh, obviously an election by the strike breakers, that are currently there, uh, would seem I suppose, out of place.

13:02:44 UFW ATTORNEY: The real point is, and let's not kid ourselves, a recognition agreement was signed with Schenleys yesterday. The situation has, in the strike which has lasted now seven months, has changed drastically, and any decision on what the position of the union would be to an offer such as Mr. DiGiorgio's or any other offer, would have to be made by the union and it's officers.... I am very interested by the developments of yesterday.

CESAR CHAVEZ, press conference re DiGiorgio elections [nice B&W]:

13:03:35 CHAVEZ: ...we accept elections. We look forward to sitting down with the DiGiorgio Corporation to work out the procedures on the elections. The conditions and governing rules should be those that the National Labor Relations Board would use if they were handling the elections. We call on Mr. DiGiorgio to exercise his influence in the business community in a joint effort with the National Farm Workers Association to petition Congress to amend the Taft-Hartley Act, to

extend that protection to farm workers. We are inviting all the public to join with us Sunday, Easter Sunday as we march into Sacramento.

13:04:16 REPORTER: Is there any possibility that your organization the Farm Workers I mean, will meet with Governor Brown tomorrow, in Sacramento, if he is willing, as he has said he might have time?

13:04:32 CHAVEZ: On Tuesday evening we took a vote and the, those people who are marching, the strikers agreed unanimously not to meet with the Governor on any day except Sunday at the rally. And the position is that if he does not meet with us on Sunday then we do not want to meet with him either before or after.

CHAVEZ, interviewed by reporter as march enters Sacramento, Easter Sunday, 1966 [B&W]:

13:06:22 REPORTER: Mr. Chavez, what happens, uh, tomorrow?

13:06:33 CHAVEZ: I suppose tomorrow we go back to reality and uh, we go back to continue the strike that's lasted now almost seven months, uh, with great hopes and expectations that it will not last much longer. That we, as civilized men we can sit together with employers and that with mutual agreement we can bring peace back to Delano and that things will return to normal. These are my most sincere desires.

June 1966, S.F., DIGIORGIO press conference [B&W], long ribbon-like scratch on left side of frame]:

13:10:25 DIGIORGIO: This election will be held on Friday, June the 24th. The election will be by secret ballot, and it will provide the workers with the opportunity to choose whether or not they wish to be represented by a union. They will also be asked to state their preference among unions which have claimed to represent DiGiorgio workers. The Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters. And the National Farm Workers Association. A blank space will also be provided for those wishing to write in any other union. The DiGiorgio Corporation will abide by the results of the election, whatever those results may be. ...will this gentleman please remove...

13:11:06 BILL KIRCHER (cuts in and protests): I simply want to tell you that I have been present in the meetings with the DiGiorgio corporation, representing the national AFL - CIO...[more light on Kircher] ...that the AFL - CIO through AWOC is supporting the position of the NFWA and is not a primary party to these proceedings. I am asking the DiGiorgio Corporation to amend its statement, and to remove the name of AWOC from the ballot. I have my attorney with me and if they do not agree I am prepared to immediately go into court to injoin them from using the name of AWOC. I am also empowered on the part of NW, NFWA, to indicate the same position with its name appearing on the ballot.

13:11:58 BILL KIRCHER: The reason is because it is a phony election. We simply do not participate in elections that don't represent some kind of accommodation with respect to the rights of workers. The whole atmosphere of the election, the element of neutrality, the chance for a worker to cast a free and

untrammelled ballot that indicates what his well-considered choice is, the type of agent that conducts that election has a great impact on just what this would be.

13:12:26 REPORTER: Is it your feeling that they're trying to pull a fast one on the farm workers?

13:12:29 BILL KIRCHER: Well, if I haven't indicated that's my feeling, then I'm not quite as articulate as I hoped I am.

13:12:40 DIGIORGIO REPRESENTATIVE: The goon squad tactics displayed here today by a handful of power hungry, would-be labor leaders provide graphic illustration of the lengths to which these men will go to avoid honest, clean elections by farm workers. The display here today also is typical of the intimidation that DiGiorgio, his workers, and other growers have been subjected to at their farm. These men fear elections for the simple reason that they will stand exposed to the frauds that they perpetrate, the claim that they represent the wishes of DiGiorgio farm workers. I can assure you that there will be no intimidation in this matter. DiGiorgio workers are going to have the opportunity to which they are entitled to express their own wishes.

13:13:33 BILL KIRCHER: [Q: What election would you like to see take place?] An election wherein the workers who have a right to participate in the election have the kind of atmosphere, the kind of conduct, and the kind of procedure, which offers them a free and untrammelled choice in the exercise of their prerogative... 13:13:49 ...anyone who was on the payroll at the time of the strike should be eligible to vote. [Q: Mr. Kircher, you said earlier that you said you had a right to be here this morning and interrupt Mr. DiGiorgio, why do you

feel that way?]) Well because it was our understanding that with the moratorium that was going on with respect to press statements, that when one was made we would make it jointly. [So you made it jointly?] Yes.

DIGIORGIO ATTORNEY interviewed by reporters:

13:14:43 REPORTER: Mr. Ham, are you going to go ahead with the election even though the restraining order was issued?

13:14:49 DIGIORGIO ATTY.: Yes, we are.

13:14:51 REPORTER: Does this mean that if anyone aside from the NFWA or AWOC should win, that you would in the future not negotiate with those two organizations?

13:15:01 DIGIORGIO ATTY.: No it doesn't mean that at all. It means that in this particular election the workers will be asked two questions, the first question, "do you want to be represented by, for purposes of collective bargaining, by a union?" Uh, the second question, "if a union is decided upon by the majority of the workers voting, which union do you want to represent you," with a space for them to write in their choice.

13:15:27 REPORTER: Will the Teamsters Union remain on the ballot?

13:15:30 DIGIORGIO ATTY.: There will be no unions on the ballot.

13:15:33 REPORTER: ...the restraining order issued...

13:15:37 DIGIORGIO ATTY.: Well I think it shows, it's a small degree of success for the efforts that have been continuing since September, uh, to avoid having this problem resolved by the very people who's destinies are at stake. Uh, the battle for the past ten months has been fought by words from the growers, words from the unions, at no time have the workers been consulted.

UFW ATTORNEY interviewed by reporters [Dolores Huerta present]:

13:15:58 UFW ATTY.: ...it of course would be even more of a sham and a fraud than it otherwise would be.

13:16:03 REPORTER: And you said they would have a blank ballot?

13:16:05 UFW ATTY.: It is a farce. That is not an election. In the first place there are many illiterate voters. But I think we ought to get back to our major objections to this election, which was called on two days' notice, while we were meeting with the corporation to work out the terms and conditions of an election, that does not allow the strikers to vote who have been out on strike and have gone out on strike during the ten month period of the strike. They have so-called neutral observers hand-picked by the corporation, at least one of whom is quoted in the California Farmer of March 19th, as calling, as saying about the union, "a hog doesn't grunt because he's sick or hungry, he grunts because it's in his nature to

grunt.” This is their impartial observer. They even have the audacity to decide who is impartial and to decide that this man is impartial.

13:17:04 REPORTER: Do you intend to advise the workers not to vote tomorrow?

13:17:07 UFW ATTY.: That is correct, our position is that this is a sham and a fraud and this election will be boycotted.